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September 9, 2021

RE: Support for the Merger of the Manhattan and Peotone Fire Protection Districts

To Whom It May Concern,

The Associated Fire Fighters of Illinois (AFFI) represents over 15,000 members in 227 different communities across our state. Manhattan Local 4991 is included in that membership and community. It is our belief that there are certain instances where a merger of fire protection services is warranted and necessary.

From the beginning, Manhattan Fire Administration has included Local 4991 in the discussions of a potential merger with the Peotone Fire Protection District, and for that we are thankful.

Our members took an oath to protect and serve the citizens and visitors of our many communities. This merger meets every definition of what a well thought out and coordinated plan to merge looks like. It reduces administrative and other duplicative costs and increases the fire and EMS services our communities deserve. Just as importantly it provides our firefighters and paramedics with safer working conditions when staffing is increased, and response times are reduced.

We are proud to support the efforts of this merger, and the residents of each of the districts should as well. Afterall, it is them who our members have or will take an oath to serve.

Sincerely,

Chuck Sullivan, President
Associated Fire Fighters of Illinois