



**City of Ann Arbor Fire Department**

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Mr. Robert Arbini, Fire Chief  
Chelsea Area Fire Authority  
200 West Middle Street  
Chelsea, Michigan 48118

August 28, 2017

Dear Chief Arbini,

On behalf of the City of Ann Arbor Fire Department and Fire Chief Larry Collins, I am contacting you to express profound professional respect and admiration of your organization and the efforts demonstrated by your personnel, in particular Captain Colt White, Captain Scott Basar, Lieutenant Eric Stanley and Firefighter James Gaken during the four alarm structure fire response to Reddeman Farms Golf Course and Banquet Hall, 555 Dancer Road on the early morning of Saturday, August 26, 2017. The observed conduct and performance of these individuals clearly illustrated your organizational commitment to professional development and training in the disciplines of incident management, preparation, planning, and emergency response.

Due to the implementation of a complex Incident Management System initiated by Captain White, and the critical actions taken by Captain Basar, Lieutenant Stanley and Firefighter Gaken in support of Captain White's overall defensive operational strategy, the entire operation was impressive to have participated in as a fire service professional. Through the direction and coordination of your organization and the maximization of neighboring county mutual aid resources, the execution of an aggressive tanker shuttle operation was astoundingly established to support the full operation and capabilities of two (2) aerial devices operating three (3) master streams flowing in excess of 1800 gallons per minute for an extended period of time.

Through the rapid incident assessment that took into consideration the given critical fire ground factors, a defensive strategy and operation was implemented and held throughout the entire operation. This operational discipline significantly reduced and managed the risk of personal injury to committed fire service personnel, while simultaneously bringing the incident under control.

It was a pleasure to have had the opportunity to work side by side with your organization and personnel, and all the other emergency service agencies involved during this large emergency response. Even though this incident resulted in a catastrophic economic loss for the property owner, through the efforts of your organization and personnel, all those who responded in the performance of their duties were able to go home to their families! Outstanding job well done. If the city of Ann Arbor Fire Department may be assistance in the future for an emergency or non-emergency event, please do not hesitate.

Sincerely and respectfully,

Andrew Box, Interim Assistant Fire Chief