



HOUSTON PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTERS

ASSOCIATION LOCAL 341

EST. 1932

PATRICK M. LANCTON
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VIA EMAIL

June 20, 2017

Mr. David Eichenthal
PFM Group Consulting LLC
850 Market Street, Suite 202
Chattanooga, TN 37402

Re: PFM Presentation to the Houston City Council – May 17, 2017

Dear Mr. Eichenthal,

Your recent presentation to the Houston City Council Committee on Budget and Fiscal Affairs includes errors and incorrect assumptions so numerous that they cannot be individually listed here. Please be advised that the errors adversely affect virtually all of your recommendations regarding Houston Fire Department operations, staffing/FTEs, wages, benchmark city comparisons, and incident statistics.

Had you consulted with our Association, along with the City of Houston, many of the reported errors could have been prevented. Had you consulted with us, you would have learned that the Association has operational analysis of HFD that the City does not possess. This “big-data” analysis – which includes potential cost-saving measures – was shared with the City Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee prior to your presentation and during our recent contract negotiations with the City.

On Page 13 of your presentation to the City, you note, “the best, most efficient and effective way to improve service delivery is through coordination and collaboration.” On behalf of the more than 3,900 Houston firefighters we represent, I wish you had taken your own advice in the preparation of your report to the City. Please advise whether your half-million-dollar contract for this project includes a provision allowing you to publish a corrected presentation were the City to make such a request.

Yours truly,

Patrick M. “Marty” Lancton
President, Houston Professional Fire Fighters Association

cc: Hon. Sylvester Turner and Houston City Council
HPFFA Board of Directors and Trustees