

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dave Gulledge
Claude Kennedy
Ed Humber
D. Craig Anderson
Gene Schaefer



FIRE CHIEF
Jon D. Remy Jr.

March 5, 2015

Legislators,

First, I want to express gratitude for the long and rich history of cooperation between the fire service and the lawmakers of our state. There have been bumps along the line, but it seems that we always find ways to meet the safety needs of the communities we serve.

I am diligent in my avoidance of political issues and I very rarely comment on such matters. In this case, I am compelled to violate my own rule. The traffic flow near Cloverdale School has been a concern to our fire district for many years. Not only do I share a general concern for the youngsters and parents who cross the busy street regularly, but I have a specific concern that exceeds my worry for those crossing the street.


The school district is required by law to conduct monthly fire drills and those drills are required to be realistic. We force the district to evacuate the building as though an actual emergency were occurring. I attend most of these drills and participate actively in maintaining the quality and realism of the experience. Cloverdale staff and parents are especially supportive of drill events and our partnership is enduring. We do the drills regularly and we do them carefully.

Because the buildings are placed so near the road, we evacuate many students and staff to the shoulder of Parrish Gap where they walk north to the playground. This travel takes them very close to a very fast and busy street and a lump often forms in my throat as I watch these youngsters move quickly toward safety. It is our concern for safety that actually has us moving kids along a dangerous road. The lump remains in my throat until they are safely to the playground. There is a terrible irony in this situation.

I would take it as a personal favor if you would listen with extreme care as concerned parties describe for you, the unusual and unacceptable risk we face in this matter. This is not a typical matter of politics or convenience. This is a matter of significant risk. Your support in reducing the travel speed along this road will benefit not only those who cross the street but the many youngsters who follow our directions during monthly drills and actual emergencies.

I am always available for a detailed conversation should you choose to call. The safety of our firefighters & children will remain the highest operational priority of the Turner Fire District.

Respectfully,


Jon D. Remy Jr.
Fire Chief