



City of Seat

6301 Addison Road
Seat Pleasant MD
20743
Phone: (301) 336-2600
Fax: (301) 336-0029
www.seatpleasantmd.go

v

Contact: Vinnie Mascarenhas
Tel. 443-942-3234
January 26, 2012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mayor Eugene W. Grant Fights to Keep the Seat Pleasant: A City of Excellence Volunteer Fire Fighter Department

Seat Pleasant, MD – Prince Georges County is projected in 2014 to open a new \$5.4 million fire station at the intersection of Shady Glen Drive and Central Avenue, and would ultimately lead to the closing of the City of Seat Pleasants Volunteer Fire Department. A Special Session Meeting in Seat Pleasant was called by the City Council Members on Friday January 20, 2012. At this meeting, concerns and possible solutions were discussed about keeping the City Volunteer Fire Department which was organized in 1915 for the purpose of providing fire protection for their neighborhoods and towns' people. Mayor Eugene W. Grant has made it clear he stands firmly with the City of Seat Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department, since taking office Mayor Eugene W. Grant along with the City Council have appropriated \$15,000 a year towards the Seat Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department.

“I am seriously concerned about the safety of my constituents, closing down our Volunteer Fire Department means putting them at risk with a slower response time to emergency calls, stick-frame homes that will burn faster, and slower EMS response time that could mean the difference between life and death,” stated Mayor Eugene W. Grant, “There are people who moved into this city strictly because there was a fire department here, it also benefits local businesses in the area due to the fact their insurance premiums go down for being located next to a fire station.”

The Mayor presented a solution to Chief Marc Bashoor that the city be given five years to raise monies required to keep the fire house open and once the five year fundraising period is up, the City of Seat Pleasant would make a payment to the county. “This proposal would keep fire and EMS services closer to our city residents because our tax dollars would be paying for these services,” said Mayor Eugene W. Grant.

The Seat Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department serves as a corner stone for the community and not only keeps the City of Seat Pleasant residents' safe but the volunteer firefighters engage in a number of community services such as provide food baskets and clothing for the poor during the holiday season. To lose this pillar of the community would be a devastating blow to the City of Seat Pleasant. Mayor Eugene W. Grant has made it clear that he opposes any effort to reduce the intrinsic value and worth of any volunteer fire department.

The City of Seat Pleasant is strongly opposed to the County moving the Seat Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department out of the city boundaries of Seat Pleasant by building a new station. The City Council is opp

osed to the conditions put on the Seat Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department for the following reasons: 1) Prince George's County will not operate two fire stations once the new station is built: 2) Once the new station is built we will not have the option of emergency calls being dispatched from the Seat Pleasant station and dispatching of calls to the Seat Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department will cease and 3) After the new station is built the City Council understands the County will provide the Seat Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department with continued funding for utilities to keep the current Seat Pleasant building open as a community space for a limited time only, which the City of Seat Pleasant finds unacceptable.

While Mayor Eugene W. Grant appreciates his meeting with Chief Bashoor, he went on to note "now it is time for the City of Seat Pleasant to go to the Prince Georges County Executive and County Council to work towards reaching a compromise on this issue." He added, "my responsibility is first and foremost to the residents of Seat Pleasant, and I will not rest until a compromise is reached and I will work tirelessly to ensure our City of Excellence's Volunteer Fire Department remains open and operational," concluded Mayor Eugene W. Grant.

Eugene W. Grant is currently serving his 8th year as mayor of Seat Pleasant: A City of Excellence. During his 8 years as mayor, he has successfully tripled the size of the Police Department, reduced crime by 33%, improved the infrastructure of the city, ended each year with a surplus and raised thousands of dollars for the local elementary school. Mayor Grant serves as the Chairman of the Board for Health Empowerment Network of Maryland, Inc., President of the Maryland Black Mayor's Community Development Corporation, Inc., Chief Executive Officer for Global Developmental Services for Youth, Inc. and a member of numerous other organizations both domestically and internationally. You can follow Mayor Grant on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

###