U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20472

FEMA

24 APR 2012

MAYOR'S OFFICE
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CITY OF RENO

The Honorable Robert A. Cashell, Sr.
Mayor of the City of Reno
One East First Street, 15th Floor
Reno, NV 89505

Dear Mayor Cashell:

Thank you for your letter, dated March 20, 2012, regarding the City's 2010 SAFER grant award and 2011 SAFER grant application.

We appreciate the difficult situation that the City of Reno is in with the deconsolidation of the fire department. Our staff working in the Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) Program Office have been in weekly communication with officials from the City of Reno to stay informed of the deconsolidation process and what this will mean for the City of Reno. At this time, the AFG Program Office believes they can work with the City of Reno to avoid any layoffs and continue with the FY2010 SAFER grant. As you know, one of the requirements of the FY2010 SAFER grant is that "Grantees under the Hiring of Firefighters Activity are not permitted to layoff any firefighters during the two-year period of performance." The AFG Staff is working closely with the City to ensure this does not happen and to avoid having to place the grant into default status. At this point we are confident we can come to an agreement with the City to prevent that undesirable result.

With respect to the FY2011 application submitted by the City of Reno, Congress appropriated $405 million in FY 2011 to support the SAFER initiative. Funds for the SAFER program are awarded on a competitive basis and made directly to local fire departments and other eligible organizations. Successful applicants are those whose requests meet the program's priorities, exhibit clear financial need, demonstrate the tangible benefits from the funds requested, and reflect the additional narrative content stipulated in the FY 2011 SAFER Grant Program Guidance materials.

The application period for the FY 2011 SAFER grants closed on February 24, 2012. Decisions on all applications received will begin following the panel reviews and will be made on a rolling basis. Once decisions are reached, each applicant will be directly notified of the outcome. For more information on the FY 2011 SAFER Program, please visit www.fema.gov/firegrants.

I appreciate your interest in the SAFER Program and look forward to working with you on future homeland security issues. If you have any further questions or concerns, please have a member of your staff contact the Centralized Scheduling and Information Desk at askcsid@fema.gov.

Regards,

Elizabeth M. Harman

Elizabeth M. Harman
Assistant Administrator
Grant Programs Directorate