Oak Hill Fire Department Travis County Emergency Services District #3

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PRESS RELEASE

Travis County Emergency Services District No. 3 Lowers Ad Valorem Taxation for Fourth Year in a Row

On Monday, September 26, 2022, the Board of Commissioners of Travis County Emergency Services District No. 3, operating locally as the Oak Hill Fire Department, took action for the fourth year in a row to lower the tax rate for the community. The District continues to leverage its strong financial planning and policy decisions to be able to further reduce the tax burden on the community. As part of the budgeting process, the District's Commissioners continued to review operational plans to ensure the continuance of providing a high level of service to the community and ensuring the high performing workforce at the Oak Hill Fire Department remains well equipped, well trained, and well compensated to be able to continue providing the services expected by the community. The District also authorized an expansion of the workforce to reduce the overtime burden placed on both its workforce and its budget. As the community continues to recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, the District has also announced its plans to resume the annual Open House in the Fall and Easter Pancake Breakfast in the Spring.

The Commissioners of Travis County Emergency Services District No. 3 are pleased to announce that the District unanimously adopted a <u>new ad valorem tax rate of 4.5 cents</u> per hundred dollars of valuation compared to the previous year's 6.5 cents tax rate per hundred dollars of valuation. The newly adopted lower tax rate will go into effect for the 2023 calendar year and represents a tax rate that is below both the "voter-approval" tax rate and the "nonew-revenue" tax rate, meaning that the District has not only reduced its tax rate, but it has also actually <u>reduced</u> the amount of taxes its community members pay for fire and emergency medical first response services.

Through its strong financial planning, policy decisions, the leveraging of cooperative purchasing opportunities with other entities, and continuing logical cost control measures in an emergency services environment that is ever-changing, the District was able to again assist the community by lowering the tax rate while maintaining the high level of emergency services the community expects and desires.

The Oak Hill Fire Department operates out of two fully staffed fire stations located at 9211 Circle Drive and 4111 Barton Creek Boulevard. With Automatic Aid agreements with all of its neighboring departments in Travis County, this arrangement helps ensure the quickest response to those in need.