

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

09-0511R

RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE ADMINISTRATION ALLOW FIRE FIGHTERS EMPLOYED BY THE CITY OF DULUTH TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS AND THE MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY ASSOCIATION, BY SOLICITING FOR DONATIONS DURING THE ANNUAL "FILL THE BOOT" CAMPAIGN.

BY COUNCILOR GARDNER:

WHEREAS, the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) is the labor organization that represents the 280,000 fire fighters who serve the public by saving lives and protecting property in cities and governmental units throughout the United States and Canada; and

WHEREAS, the IAFF is the single largest national sponsor of the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) and its annual Labor Day telethon; and

WHEREAS, since 1954, when it first initiated its partnership with the MDA, IAFF members have raised over \$275 million dollars toward the worldwide research efforts of MDA to eradicate 40 neuromuscular diseases; and

WHEREAS, the contributions generated through the efforts of fire fighters also go towards MDA's summer camps for children, professional and public health education, and other programs; and

WHEREAS, each year fire fighters raise millions of dollars nationwide through their passionate Fill the Boot campaigns, in which fire fighters greet motorists, shoppers and others and collect donations of money to MDA in their fire boots; and

WHEREAS, the commitment of the fire fighters to the cause of MDA has further elevated their image as extraordinary professionals who not only put their own lives at stake to save others from fires, explosions, structural collapses, and other disasters, but also as heroes helping to work toward saving the lives of the innocent victims of neuromuscular diseases; and

WHEREAS, the devoted support of IAFF members to the MDA not only provides significant financial assistance to finding a cure for these diseases, but also strengthens the relationship between the fire fighters and the members of the

community they serve through the face to face meetings during the Fill the Boot campaign; and

WHEREAS, more than 800 cities across the United States, including Superior, WI, annually allow their fire fighter crews to conduct Fill the Boot campaign activities while on-duty in a manner that leaves them available and responsible to responding to emergency calls; and

WHEREAS, several states have passed statutes authorizing fire fighters to conduct Fill the Boot activities while on duty; and

WHEREAS, Duluth fire fighters are active members of IAFF Local 101 and long-standing participants in the Fill the Boot campaign; and

WHEREAS, unlike other city of Duluth employees, fire fighters work twenty-four (24) hour shifts that include down time for personal activities; and

WHEREAS, Duluth fire fighters conduct their Fill the Boot activities in a manner that neither interfere with or preclude the performance of their regular daily duties nor detract from other work-related obligations to the public; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota chapter of the MDA has recognized the significant and valuable contribution of Duluth fire fighters to their annual fund raising efforts and strongly seeks their continued participation; and

WHEREAS, the Duluth city council supports the efforts of the IAFF Local 101 and the MDA to find a cure for these terrible diseases; and

WHEREAS, the Duluth city council recognizes that participation by the Duluth fire fighters in the nationwide MDA Fill the Boot campaign serves not only to raise money for the MDA but also benefits the City by greatly enhancing the image of its fire fighters as dedicated public servants engaged in the community through their employment and in service to charitable causes.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the city council supports the efforts of the Duluth fire fighters in their participation of the MDA Fill the Boot campaign; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the city council requests that the administration

allow the Duluth fire fighters to participate in the annual MDA Fill the Boot campaign while on duty, subject to reasonable conditions and limitations as may be established by the fire chief.

Approved as to form:

Attorney

CCREQ/ATTY GBJ:cjk 8/3/2009

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE: This resolution requests that the administration allow Duluth fire fighters to participate in the annual MDA Fill the Boot campaign while on duty, subject to reasonable conditions and limitations as may be established by the fire chief.