

**Commissioner Knox's Comments Concerning the Fire and Emergency Services Committee Recommendations at the March 29<sup>th</sup> CSSC Meeting**

After Commissioner Goff made the motion that the Commission formally consider the recommendations and the report as adopted by the Fire and Emergency Services Committee, Commissioner Knox said: "I have a question. Sitting here looking at the recommendations, there is one thing that jumps out at me. There is no recommendation as to consolidation or not consolidation of the two departments. That's the one thing that jumps out at me. Did the Committee come to some sort of decision as to whether or not to consolidate the two entities?"

Chairman Goff said, "The Committee came to the conclusion that it is not in the best interest of both departments to consolidate."

Commissioner Pignone made some comments and then Commissioner Knox asked, "Was there a particular reason why the Committee did not specifically write out that they shouldn't be consolidated?"

Commissioner Goff answered, "Yes, consolidation of the Orange County Fire Rescue Department and the City of Orlando Fire Department was studied for efficiencies in service delivery, economies of scale, opportunities for enhanced intergovernmental cooperation, and other related issues. We voted not to consolidate."

Commissioner Knox then said, "It doesn't say that. It just says it was studied. There's no statement as to what the results of that. It just says the Committee recommends and then here are the recommendations. It doesn't say you decided not to. There is an inference, but no clear-cut statement not to consolidate."

Commissioner Putnam then talked for a while explaining her thoughts on what the Committee had done in the recommendations.

Commissioner Knox then said, "I can see where you're coming from, but being a layman I prefer just straight, bold straight out talk. If the Committee is inferring it, then just say it. Just say that the Committee recommends not to consolidate the two, but does recommend the following, bang, bang, bang. If you're going to dance around it, then just flat out come out and state it."

That was all that Commissioner Knox said concerning the Fire and Emergency Services Committee recommendations.