

---

**Subject:** FW: October 3, 2023 Town Council Review of Fire Safe Regulations Exception Requests Process  
**Attachments:** image003.jpg; image004.png; image002.jpg; image004.png; image002.jpg; image003.jpg; 231002 County Fire issues.pdf

---

**From:** Terence J. Szewczyk [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 2, 2023 3:16 PM  
**To:** Wendy Wood <WWood@losgatosca.gov>  
**Cc:** Jennifer Armer <JArmer@losgatosca.gov>  
**Subject:** Fwd: October 3, 2023 Town Council Review of Fire Safe Regulations Exception Requests Process

[EXTERNAL SENDER]

Hi Wendy-- Desk Item for TC---- one simple page with highlights and underlining.

Best regards, Terry  
Terence J. Szewczyk, P.E.  
TS/Civil Engineering, Inc  
1776 Technology Drive  
San Jose, CA 95110  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

ATTACHMENT 5



October 2, 2023

**MEMO SUBJECT:                      Perspective of a 42 Year Customer of Santa Clara  
County Fire Marshal Services**

- Until about 2008, the staff was helpful, interactive, and most of all consistent in the application of standards. This held true until the retirement of Doug Harding in about 2012.
- County Fire has since hired under-qualified staff that do not meet their own hiring prerequisites as verified from County hiring position description.
- With the mandated strict enforcement of PRC-4290 (originally adopted in 1991) which started in July 2021, Santa Clara County Fire has been the only 1 of 58 counties to require 20' wide road improvements from "the firehouse doors" to any new residence. This is simply unconstitutional under Federal Law. The Fire Marshal Appeal Hearings (three total) were ineffective.
- When you challenge the Fire Marshals' authority, you find that they are merely a subcontractor to the Town based upon an ancient 1970 contract.
- Further investigation of the "chain of command" results in an organizational chart with vague position descriptions such as "Assistant Deputy Fire Chief." The organization chart has no named individuals.
- More disturbing is that Senior Staff have annual salaries exceeding \$500,000 which is higher than Los Angeles County.
- Current Fire Marshal Staff are not CA State Fire Marshal trained nor NFPA 13 qualified. They admit that they cannot read engineering or construction plans.
- Since 2010, there has been little consistency in the specific requirements of road widths and slopes. Fire truck turnarounds have had inconsistent standards.
- The County Board of Supervisors, which is the Fire Dept. Board discontinued appeals earlier this year.

If you have any further questions, please contact me at [REDACTED] or call [REDACTED]

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Terence J. Szewczyk'.

TS/CIVIL ENGINEERING, INC.  
Terence J. Szewczyk, P.E. C35527  
Principal Engineer