

Debra Thompson

From: rdparks@gci.net
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2022 10:32 AM
To: Assembly
Cc: madonna.parks@yahoo.com
Subject: RD Parks letter of resignation from the Petersburg Volunteer Fire Department

Dear Fellow Fire Department Members,

I regret to inform you that I am resigning my position with the Petersburg Volunteer Fire Department effective immediately. The current situation that Madonna and I are in makes it necessary for me to take this action.

I have been a member of the Search and Rescue branch of the Fire Department for 18 years and an officer for over half of that time. I joined this organization to help the Borough of Petersburg. I feel strongly that this is what responsible people in small communities do and what makes these communities a great place to live.

It's the same reason Madonna and I have coached Little League teams, umpired games, worked as swim meet officials, volunteered at the school and daycares, served on various boards around town, mentored high school students, traveled as chaperones, lead a Girl Scout troop, housed visiting athletes, provided long term housing for foreign students, played Santa Claus for various groups, volunteered at Covid vaccination clinics...

As a member of the SAR team, I have devoted countless hours to this community. I have searched for missing hunters, hikers, tourists, and plane crash victims. I have done it in all kinds of weather, seasons, and times of day. I have experienced the satisfaction of finding and rescuing victims. I have also endured the heartbreak of failing to find victims of a plane crash and the abject sadness of bringing home a drowning victim to his loved ones. I willingly gave this organization everything I had, every time I was called out.

Our daughter Molly Parks was killed on July 4, 2016, in a Petersburg Borough van, while working for the same Borough that I devoted so much time and energy to. The Fire Department did an exemplary job on probably one of the worst days of your careers. Madonna and I will be forever grateful for your service that day. From that day forward every Fire Department member, from Department Head Sandy Dixson to the newest volunteer, has done everything they could for Madonna and I.

The Fire Department has had our back every step of the way and I am proud to have been a member of this excellent organization.

While the Fire Department has our backs the upper management of the Borough of Petersburg clearly does not. Because of this adversarial situation, I can no longer continue to be a volunteer for the Borough of Petersburg.

I have the greatest regard for all of you. It has been an honor and a privilege to work with the Petersburg Fire Department.

Sincerely,
R.D. Parks
Lt. SAR