



July 06, 2016

As Mayor I wish to convey the following public statement to the citizens of Russellville regarding recent allegations brought against retiring Fire Chief John L. Cochran.

An investigation was recently completed by the City's Human Resources Coordinator regarding alleged harassment, hostile work environment and intimidation by Chief Cochran and other senior officers of the Fire Department. The investigation revealed no evidence of misconduct by Chief Cochran during his nine years as our Fire Chief including allegations of him directing other Department employees to not speak to members of the City Council without prior permission. In concert with the above investigation, a review was made by a qualified third-party that found general compliance with Russellville Fire Department practice and procedure by all members of the Department during operations at an early morning fire incident on July 27, 2015. Subsequent to the completion of the investigations, the City Council Personnel Committee deems the issue closed and has cleared Chief Cochran of any wrongdoing. The findings of both investigations may be reviewed in their entirety on the City's web and social media sites.

Subsequent to the closing of the investigations, the City regrets any stress the investigations may have imposed upon Chief Cochran. I recognize his commitment to duty and service to his fellow citizens was not just with himself, but with all members of the Department through focused and aggressive training, accountability, and a clear understanding that our citizens, the Russellville tax payer, always comes first.

I wish to recognize Chief Cochran's service to the City during which, since 1978, a span of 38 years, Chief Cochran dutifully served his fellow citizens with 24 years of accumulated service. I know he is proud of the accomplishments achieved by the Department during his term; particularly, the outstanding abilities and service provided by each member of the Department and he wishes each of them the very best and safest future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Randy Horton".

Randy Horton, Mayor  
City of Russellville