

Broome County Fire Investigators Deserve A Raise

Broome County's fire investigators have not received a raise in many, many years. Currently many receive less than \$10 an hour for a job that requires a lot of training and sees them called out at all hours, in all kinds of weather, to all parts of the county. A request that would have added approximately \$13,000 to the 2009 County budget to boost the fire investigators salaries up to the same hourly wages as investigators in Broome security was denied.

A well trained fire investigation team is essential to help us determine fire cause and origin and prosecute arson in our county. There has been quite a bit of turnover in the fire investigation bureau over the past few years, likely because of the low wages. If we want to keep well-qualified people in fire investigation, then this raise is essential.

We are asking everyone to contact their county legislators, particularly those on the Finance and Public Safety & Emergency Services Committees. They have the power to put this raise back into the 2009 budget. Please contact your county legislator and especially the following:

Finance Committee: Reynolds (Chairman), Herz, Howard, La Bare, Mather

Public Safety: Materese (Chairman), Garnar, Howard, Hutchings, Marinich

**For information on how to contact these legislators go to
<http://www.gobroomecounty.com/legis/Legis.php>**