

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PROPOSED JOINT CONSOLIDATION AGREEMENT AND DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Boards of Fire Commissioners for the Ridge-Culver Fire District and Laurelton Fire District endorsed a proposed joint consolidation agreement by joint resolution on March 30, 2022.

DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY

Following the results of a Consolidation Study, entitled Town of Irondequoit Fire Districts and an Analysis of Existing Conditions and Options for the Future, issued in May 2021, the Boards of Fire Commissioners for the Ridge-Culver Fire District and Laurelton Fire District have endorsed a proposed joint consolidation agreement. Under the terms of the proposed joint consolidation agreement, the Ridge-Culver Fire District and Laurelton Fire District would be consolidated into a new fire district to be known as the Irondequoit Fire District.

The proposed joint consolidation agreement contains the elements required by General Municipal Law §752(2), which are summarized below:

1. The local government entities to be consolidated are the Ridge-Culver Fire District and the Laurelton Fire District.
2. The name of the proposed consolidated local government entity resulting from a successful consolidation will be the Irondequoit Fire District.
3. The Irondequoit Fire District, as the proposed consolidated local government entity, will have all the rights, duties and obligations of a fire district under Article 11 of the Town Law. A fire district is a political subdivision of the state of New York and a district corporation. The Irondequoit Fire District will oversee and provide fire protection and other emergency services to the geographic area presently encompassing the component local government entities—*i.e.*, Ridge-Culver Fire District and Laurelton Fire District. Irondequoit Fire District will operate with all the rights, duties, and obligations that are defined by the laws of the state of New York applicable to fire districts.
4. The territorial boundaries of the Irondequoit Fire District will be the combined territorial boundaries of Ridge-Culver Fire District and Laurelton Fire District, which includes the southeastern part of the Town of Irondequoit.
5. The Irondequoit Fire District will be a New York fire district, organized and existing under Article 11 of the Town Law, and as such will be a political subdivision of the state of New York and a district corporation.

6. The Irondequoit Fire District will be an independent political subdivision governed by an elected board of five fire commissioners. The fire commissioners and other chief officers and employees of the newly consolidated fire district are employees and officers of the fire district and not officers and employees of the town or any other political subdivision. The initial board of fire commissioners and treasurer will be appointed as provided by Town Law §174, with an initial term to expire on December 31, 2022. Thereafter, fire commissioners and treasurer shall be elected as provided by Article 11 of the Town Law, with the first election to be held on December 13, 2022. The fire district secretary will be appointed. Employees of the component districts will become employees of the Irondequoit Fire District, with new employment agreements being executed with the Irondequoit Fire District.

7. The estimate of the savings that may be realized from the consolidation of the Ridge-Culver and Laurelton Fire Districts into the Irondequoit Fire District is five percent (5%) from the current estimated aggregate operating budgets of the component districts if there is no consolidation. A new consolidated district offers improvements in efficiency by consolidating administrative structure from two chiefs and ten commissioners to one chief and five commissioners. The component districts believe that substantial financial savings can be achieved by avoiding duplication of staffing requirements. If consolidation does not take place, Laurelton has already identified a need to add one (1) fire chief, four (4) captains, and eight (8) additional career firefighters beginning in 2023. If consolidation does not take place, Ridge-Culver has identified the need for twelve (12) additional career fighters beginning in 2023. By consolidating, the component districts believe that a significant portion of the additional staff costs can be avoided because current staffing can be shared across the newly consolidated fire district. After consolidating the component districts believe that the Irondequoit Fire District would only need to add four (4) career fighters in 2023. The estimated cost savings are based on the foregoing assumptions. The estimate of the savings, which may be realized from consolidation, is approximately \$1.9 million in 2023 for the combined district versus the aggregate of the component districts without consolidation. The 2023 tax rate is anticipated to be \$5.82 for the consolidated district versus an estimated 2023 tax rate of \$7.51 for Laurelton and \$7.14 for Ridge-Culver. The estimated cost of consolidation, including publications, legal and administrative costs and other costs is approximately \$20,000.00.

8. The current cash value of the assets of the component districts is approximately \$9.4 million for Ridge-Culver Fire District and \$6.3 million for Laurelton Fire District.

9. The liabilities and indebtedness of each of the component districts is annexed to the joint consolidation agreement. All debts, liabilities and obligations of Ridge-Culver and Laurelton, not referenced herein will become the debts, liabilities and obligations of the Irondequoit Fire District pursuant to General Municipal Law § 768(1),(2) and (3).

10. The assets and liabilities of each component district will be assumed by the Irondequoit Fire District as the successor local government entity.

11. The Irondequoit Fire District will administer the fire district through its board of fire commissioners and fire chief. The terms for the common administration and uniform enforcement of local laws, ordinances, resolutions, orders and the like within the consolidated local government entity are that they will be conducted by the consolidated local government entity in accordance with an operations plan created by the component fire districts prior to consolidation.

12. The effective date of the proposed consolidation is May 16, 2022.

13. A public hearing on the proposed joint consolidation agreement will take place on Thursday, May 5, 2022, at 7:00 pm, at the Ridge-Culver Fire District Fire Station, 2960 Culver Road, Rochester, New York 14622.

A copy of the proposed joint consolidation agreement may be examined at the following locations: (1) Ridge-Culver Fire District Fire Station, 2960 Culver Road, Rochester, New York 14622; and (2) Laurelton Fire District Fire Station, 405 Empire Blvd., Rochester, New York, 14609.

A copy of the proposed joint consolidation agreement is also available for download on the website for Ridge-Culver Fire District: <https://www.ridgeculverfire.com/>

A copy of the proposed joint consolidation agreement is also being provided to the Clerk for the Town of Irondequoit for posting on the website for the Town of Irondequoit and so that copies may be made available at the Town Hall and the Irondequoit Public Library.

Dated: April 1, 2022

Ridge-Culver Fire District
Rodd Riesenberger, Secretary

Laurelton Fire District
James Mastin, Secretary