

**CITY OF DANBURY**  
**FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
**19 NEW STREET**  
**DANBURY, CONNECTICUT 06810**

**Geoffrey Herald**  
**Fire Chief**

**Phone 203-796-1555**  
**Fax 203-796-1533**

July 26, 2007

Mayor Mark D. Boughton  
Common Council  
City of Danbury  
155 Deer Hill Ave.  
Danbury, Ct. 06810

**Re: Statement of Condition and Property, Danbury Fire Department**  
**City Code of Ordinances 8-13**

Dear Mayor Boughton and Members of the Common Council,

In accordance with Section 8-13 of the City Charter the following report is offered as to the listing of property and a general statement of condition and affairs of the Department.

The Danbury Fire Department continues to operate as a combination department with six career companies and 12 volunteer stations. The City owns and maintains six volunteer stations, with the remainder owned by the volunteer companies. The current table of organization shows 119 members of the career department. Current membership rosters of the 12 volunteer companies approach 150 individuals inclusive of social and support members. The fire department continues to hold the certificate of operation for the ambulance service and first responder program. The ambulance and paramedic services are currently contracted to Danbury Health Systems, while the department continues to operate the first responder EMS response. The department is the Primary Service Answering Point (PSAP) for all 911 calls in the City.

**Facilities and Property**

The following City owned fire stations and facilities are currently in operation.

The Joseph J. Bertalovitz Fire Headquarters - 19 New St.

Melody/Halas Station 23 - Osborne Street

Commerce Park Station 24 - Eagle Road

West Side Station 26 – Kenosia Ave. Ext.

Fire Training Center - Plumtrees Road

Padanaram Hose # 3 – North Street.

Independent Hose # 4 - Hoyt Street.

Wooster Hose # 5 - Coal Pit Hill Road

Citizens Hose # 6 - Jefferson Avenue

Water Witch # 7 - Locust Avenue

Phoenix Hose # 8 - Well Avenue

The Department also has a renewed rental agreement for Station 25 located on South King Street. This rental is paid to the King Street Volunteer Company #14 on an annual basis.

The Division of Prevention/ Education/Inspection operates out of office space at City Hall. The Fire Marshal’s office continues to operate under the jurisdiction of the Fire Department.

**Status and Condition**

**All City owned fire stations are operable at this time.** We continue to work with the Public Buildings department on matters of repair and maintenance.

The **Fire Training Facility** is available for use. The facility is open for drills and exercises at the present time. City engineers are currently working on additional improvements for the grounds. Improved parking and safety improvements to Plumtrees Road, some of which are completed, will further enhance the area. We continue to seek additional funding on the State and Federal level for scheduled additions of a classroom and training mock-ups.

**Fire Headquarters** continues to suffer severe space constraints as previously detailed. The addition of equipment via Homeland Security grants has stressed our bay capacity. This is now reaching severe levels. Many living area improvements have been completed in this structure which is over 30-years old.

**Station 23 Osborne Street** is currently operating without major structural issues. All systems are operable. Continuing problems with gutter damage by snow build up on the metal roof is being evaluated by the Public Buildings Department.

**Station 24 Commerce Park** is currently operating. The City Engineering department continues to evaluate sinking areas of the landscaped property and issues of concrete block separation. The driveway and parking areas, scheduled for replacement last year have yet to be repaired.

**King Street Station 25** is now operating out of their new facility as of June 24, 2006. Repaving of the front drive is being completed as this is written. The new facility meets the needs of the King Street district with the full time crew of Engine 25. The facility is complete with a back-up emergency generator, diesel exhaust system and a new septic system. The City will continue to rent the space from King St. Volunteer Company # 14.

**Station 26, West Side** – The new West Side Fire Station housing Engine 26 is nearing completion and should come on line in September of 2007. This station has been built on a City owned site off of Kenosia Avenue extension, which was selected as the most strategic location for this facility.

**911 Emergency Dispatch Center** continues to operate out of the first floor of fire headquarters. Continued advancements in technology within the communications arena have rendered this facility obsolete, and relocation needs are even more immediate than have been identified in the past. This site will be maintained until a permanent location within the new Police Headquarters facility is fully operable. The remaining equipment will then provide a redundant emergency communications system for major incidents.

**Volunteer Stations # 3 Padanaram, #5 Wooster, #6 Citizens and # 8 Phoenix** are currently operating without major structural difficulties. Functionally and cosmetically they remain antiquated and marginally meet the operating needs of the companies. A roof evaluation has been completed by the Public Buildings department. Repairs have begun to the roofs in dire need. Some repairs have been completed but others are pending. Additional roof repairs to Citizens Hose and some window repairs are needed. The main roof of #6 Citizens Hose was replaced a couple of years ago.

**Volunteer Stations # 4 Independent and #7 Water Witch** are currently operating without major structural difficulties.

Regarding the status of the volunteers' stations, as chief I believe it is time to evaluate the usefulness of the existing fire houses with an eye toward consolidation and replacement of the properties. This is particularly directed toward the quarters of Engine 5 and Squad. Each of these structures is quite old and though quaint in appearance is not at all suited for use by modern fire departments. I recommend a committee be formed to investigate the purchase of property on the south side of town and construction of a single structure housing both companies. This would facilitate the response by having the companies share quarters and cross train on both apparatus. A new station could also incorporate a state of the art training class room and electronic teaching facilities. This resource is sorely needed as the educational requirements of the volunteers has greatly expanded and will continue to expand in the future. Sales of the various properties currently housing the volunteers would greatly reduce the total outlay by the city to complete the consolidation.

**Fleet Inventory and Condition**

Apparatus and fleet vehicles owned by the department are detailed below. **Our current fleet is fully operational at this time.** The department continues to standardize the fleet for better efficiency in training and maintenance. Several vehicles are being placed in service as command vehicles and will play a roll in our emergency plan by towing emergency trailers in times of disaster. An additional pumper that will be assigned as Engine 26 for the new West Side Station 26 has been delivered and will be placed in service this fall. In addition, we have received three trailers for various purposes as well as a Hazardous Material Response Vehicle and foam trailer through the state wide regional response plan. We are expecting delivery of two replacement engines and a multipurpose response vehicle this fall as well.

Marker#	Year	Make	Model	VIN #	Mileage	Hours	Condition
52DA	85	Chevrolet	Step-van	1GBJP32M4F3315333	28156		FPB-Fair
351DA	93	Chevrolet	Lumina	2G1WL54T3P9232877	82853		FPB-Poor
54DA	95	Chevrolet	Tahoe	1GNEK13K7SJ413654	96564		Backup C30-Fair
34DA	97	Ford	Crown Victoria	2FALP71WVOVX178445	47302		Fair
43DA	97	Ford	Crown Victoria	2FALP71W2VX178446	53518		Fair
251DA	99	Chevrolet	Cavalier	1G1JC1242X7162093	59700		Good
216DA	99	Chevrolet	Cavalier	1G1JC1243X7162197	20133		Good
66DA	99	Chevrolet	Cavalier	1G1JC124XX7161340	52602		Good
44DA	01	Chevrolet	Tahoe	1GNEK13T11J217863	52286		Good
NA	94	Pierce	Arrow	4P1CA02D2SA000127	97884	11494	Reserve Fair
NA	96	Pierce	Sabre	4P1CT02U7TA000426	95600	9962	E25- Fair
NA	00	Pierce	Sabre	4P1CT02U6YA000232	75643	8321	E23- Good
NA	00	Pierce	Sabre	4P1CT02U5YA000237	74331	8782	E24- Good
NA	00	Pierce	Dash	4P1CT02S8YA000750	29984	4178	T2-Good
NA	03	Pierce	Sabre	4P1CT02UX3A002798	58808	6271	E21- Good
NA	04	Pierce	Dash Platform	4P10D01H74A004530	18466	2476	T1- Excellent
29DA	03	Ford	Pick-Up	1FTNX21L13EB32200	8285		Excellent
59DA	03	Ford	Taurus	1FAFP52U73G154371	30631		FPB- Good
142DA	03	Ford	Taurus	1FAFP52U53G154370	31893		FPB- Good
26DA	03	Ford	Taurus	1FAFP52U93G154369	43749		EMS- Good
51DA	03	Ford	Taurus	1FAFP52U73G154368	57364		Training- Good
2247	03	Advanced Containment Systems Inc	Decon- Trailer	1A9VFLT2031247556	NA		Good
317DA		Sullair	Compressor	004-142661	NA		Good
297DA		Ingersol-	Light	342308JA0789	NA		Good

		Rand	Tower				
313DA	01	5-Starr	Boat Trailer	5A4XJRJ1X12001639	NA		Good
	01	14' Quicksilver	Inflatable Boat/25HP	KR-USA99650F001	NA		Good
56DA	89	Pennsylvania	Utility Trl.	1P9C614D2KL016559	NA		Good
B.S.I. 2520	93	Ford	E-350	1FDKE30M7PHA42798	144710		Fair
B.S.I. 880	05	Ford	E-350	1FDWE35P85HA60616	34514		Excellent
B.S.I. 883	05	Ford	E-350	1FDWE35P35HA60619	35303		Excellent
B.S.I. 135DA	98	Chevrolet	CK10706 Tahoe	1GNEK13R9WJ356036	78588		Fair
B.S.I. 68DA	01	Ford	Crown Vic	2FAFP71W11X187226	58002		Good
B.S.I. 1274	00	Ford	E-350	1FDWE35F7YHA72672	95201		Fair
B.S.I. 2309	01	Ford	E-350	1FDWE35F21HB34162	80641		Good
2265	06	Freightliner	M2	1FVACXDAX6HV52384	2138	140	Excellent
60DA	06	Ford	Explorer	1FMEU73E46UA52724	8174		Excellent
69DA	06	Ford	Explorer	1FMEU73E66UA52725	7368		Excellent
145DA	06	Ford	Expedition	1FMPU16546LA50690	11856		Excellent
250DA	06	Ford	Expedition	1FMPU16576LA83327	8741		Excellent
258DA	06	Ford	Expedition	1FMPU16596LA83328	5425		Excellent
N/A	06	Pierce	Dash	4P1CD01S76A006681	7993	769	E-22 Excellent
N/A	06	John Deere	Gator	W06X411D005068		20	Excellent
70-23	06	Fire 1	Foam Unit	1S9RT192160407186	N/A		Excellent
344DA	07	American	Trailer	5N6200G2271016808	N/A		Excellent
N/A	07	American	Trailer	5N6200G2471016809	N/A		Excellent
345DA	07	Alcom	Trailer	1A9BE16217W726759	N/A		Excellent
22DA	07	Ford	Expedition	1FMFU16547LA34454	343		Excellent
	07	International	4400	1HTMKAZR77H522397	3070	81	Excellent

### Equipment

The department continues to purchase and replace equipment to meet the needs of an evolving fire service. The department has received substantial funding and equipment from State and Federal sources in the last few years. The information available today however, seems to indicate reductions in security and preparation funding. Grant funding has made a dramatic impact in the quality of equipment the department is using. The Department of Homeland Security has provided funding to assist our City in preparing for natural disasters and terrorist activity. The Mayor and Common Council have provided support to enhance these initiatives, as illustrated by some results listed below. A recent example is the purchase and installation of the Panasonic Tough books for the mobile data system and the purchase of new turn out gear for structural firefighting. The city wide radio system initiative is underway. This will allow all city departments to communicate with each other across department lines.

Current purchases and initiatives include the following:

1. The continued replacement of protective clothing for firefighters to a new higher-grade material and construction. We received a grant this spring to provide additional turn out gear to the department.
2. The continued purchase of vehicle extrication equipment to meet the new materials and construction we encounter at accident scenes.
3. The continuing addition of technical rescue equipment and training for new hazards being encountered.
4. The addition of equipment and training funds from the Department of Homeland Security to assist in response to natural disasters and potential acts of terrorism.
5. The continued scheduling of advanced rescue, WMD and National Incident Management classes in an in-house format to maintain our high level of preparedness.
6. The continued purchase and training of rope rescue equipment for low and high angle rescue situations.
7. The continued purchase and training of hazardous materials response equipment. The upgrade of the Department response to an actual technician team continues to evolve on a Regional level.
8. The delivery and implementation Multi casualty trailers as well as other vehicles to enhance our capabilities to better serve the community.
9. The delivery of a state regional foam pump/trailer.
10. The replacement and repair of all front line metering and monitoring equipment.
11. The addition and replacement of Fire Response Vehicles to ensure up to date equipment

**General Statement of Affairs**

The conventional operations of our department are sound. With our modern equipment and current facilities the department will continue delivering quality emergency services. Funding for apparatus and facility improvements on the local level has been and continues to be greatly appreciated. The support of the City Administration and Common Council has made a visible and functional difference in the Fire Department over the past several years.

The department continues to prepare and train for the prospect of future incidents related to the potential use of weapons of mass destruction. Despite the challenge to our Department's response capabilities we will continue to explore all options on a local regional and State wide level. The continued challenges will be in the arenas of preparedness, staffing and finance. We will continue to take advantage of training opportunities provided and funded by the Department of Homeland Security. Grant opportunities will continue to be explored and pursued diligently. The development of certain Regional response initiatives is being earnestly encouraged by State and Federal

agencies. We are participating on a State and Regional level for the benefit of our community.

The status of our volunteer contingent remains a focus of concern, as this component is critical to the success of delivering quality service. Membership in the volunteers has expanded over the past year. Initiatives of consolidation and Civil Service incentives are currently being explored and implemented. A benefit for volunteer firefighters has been restored, with volunteers receiving points based on training and commitment to the fire service added to the entry level testing scores. The most recent initial eligibility list failed to yield the numbers of local volunteers we expected. Historically, in times of crisis our volunteers have stepped forward to assist our community. We must encourage this commitment.

There remains a concern on adequate staffing in working emergency incidents. Combined with the development of our volunteer contingent, the City must work to understand in greater detail the need for additional staffing on a regular basis. The current administration has noted this concern and the opening of the Westside station will address a major shortcoming in our response. OSHA safety standards and National agency recommendations will inevitably increase minimum staffing levels. We have seen with increasing frequency the difficulties encountered with our current minimum staffing levels. As the seventh largest City in the State, we must constantly assess the challenges of expanding our department to meet the changing needs of the community. Areas of development both commercial and residential are stretching current resources, and analysis of future growth and services required to support these trends is vital.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment as per section 8-13 of our City Code of Ordinances. Your comments as to the format or considerations with regards to this report and our Department are appreciated. If you require any additional information please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Respectfully,

Geoffrey Herald  
Fire Chief