

St. Lucie County Fire District and IAFF Local 1377  
Joint News Release

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St. Lucie County Firefighters and Fire District Renegotiate Contract  
Saving District \$2.7 Million

IAFF Local 1377 Suggests Pay Freeze To Help During Poor Economy

St. Lucie County, FL – Firefighters in St. Lucie County took steps to help the Fire District with their budget during this poor economy. The firefighters, who are in the middle of a three-year contract, suggested a freeze on a 7% scheduled pay increase. The agreement means 0% raise for FY 2009-2010; 3.25% raise for FY 2010-2011; and 3.25% raise for FY 2011-2012. The move will save the Fire District \$2.7 million over the three years. The freeze will take place on October 1 when the Fire District begins its 2009-2010 Fiscal Year.

"The proposal, the discussions, the negotiations, and the ratification of the collective bargaining agreement shows the commitment that the Fire District employees have to the community," said Ron Parrish, St. Lucie County Fire Chief. "I was extremely proud to be part of this process."

"As president of the Professional Fire Fighters and Paramedics Local 1377, I am proud of the collaborative efforts of our negotiation team and the nearly 400 members of our local to assist the Fire District and taxpayers of Saint Lucie County in these difficult times," said Tim Munson. "As always, the people we represent continue to serve their community effectively and efficiently."

"The Fire Board thanks the Union and management for working out this cost-saving proposal," said Doug Coward, Chairman of the St. Lucie County Fire District. "The Fire Board is grateful to the employees for their willingness to step up to the plate during these very challenging economic times to be part of the solution."

The agreement was approved by the union members 70% to 30%. The Fire Board approved the agreement during their July meeting.

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