

## Legislative Update

February 9, 2011

Spent the day at the Capitol yesterday with Austin Fire Chief Mickey Healy joining us for a while, Chief Esbensen for a bit, Chief Stemmer for a bit, ED Brace for a bit, and Marshal Zaccard.

Lt. Governor - Chief Healy, Sherry and Myself spent 20 minutes with Lt. Governor Prettner Solon discussing the Fire Safety Account. With the Governor's Budget due out next Tuesday and in all likelihood being finalized by Friday wanted to make one last push into the Governor's office to advocate for our cause. She was very receptive and is now more familiar with the issue.

DOLI Commissioner - Marshal Zaccard, Chiefs Stemmer, Healy, Myself, Tom and Sherry met with Commissioner Ken Peterson and Assistant Commission Jessica (I forgot and she did not have cards) for over 30 minutes discussing the Residential Sprinkler Bill the Builders are talking about introducing which would stop DOLI from adopting that provision in the IRC. It was a great meeting and we left feeling very confident that DOLI does not support any code making and adoption via the legislative process, rather, rulemaking. We offered to educate them more and use the sprinkler trailer which they were very receptive too.

Sherry and I learned later (while meeting with a legislator) that BAM is shopping a bill around that says something to the effect homeowners should be allowed a choice but it will not be mandated. We have not seen the language but probably will not like it! The legislator had signed up but is now going to remove his name!

Rep. Mary Murphy - Longtime friend of the fire service, visited to see if Pension Commission appointments are out for the House, they were released by the Senate on Monday, she had not heard of anything as of our meeting.

Rep. Torrey Westrom - Chair of Civil Law - Chief Esbensen, myself and Sherry visited with the Chairman regarding our donated equipment bill. He suggested and approved a name for a chief author (Tara Mack from Apple Valley) and assured us the bill would receive a hearing. The previous chair of this committee would never give us a hearing in the house.

Rep. Mike LeMieur - A freshman legislator and a 20 year volunteer firefighter (Captain) from Little Falls. Agreed to sign onto all of our bills.

Fire Safety Account - Jackets are back, Rep. Steve Smith will be authoring both the appropriation bill and block grant bill.

Rep. Tim Sanders - Sherry and I met with him, he is a 2nd year republican, represents Blaine and will be the chief author of our Used Equipment purchasing bill with the exception granted from bids for used fire trucks.

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There is always morning where life gives us another opportunity to make things good. –  
Gabriel Garcia Marques