

Resolution No. 40

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT: Health & Safety

Re: Support of Cancer Research

1 WHEREAS, cancer is recognized as one of the
2 deadliest diseases known to mankind; and

3 WHEREAS, cancer does not discriminate, but
4 affects people from all walks of life regardless of
5 age, gender, or health; and

6 WHEREAS, fire fighters face the risk of
7 contracting certain types of cancer with occurrence
8 rates being two to four times greater than the general
9 population, as per a number of bona fide medical
10 studies; and

11 WHEREAS, the IAFF has documented that over
12 60 percent of LODDs are directly attributed to
13 occupational cancer in fire fighters; and

14 WHEREAS, experts from the National Institute of
15 Health, the National Cancer Institute and other
16 prominent organizations have repeatedly stated that
17 cancer diagnoses are expected to significantly
18 increase as our longevity increases and that advances
19 in cancer treatment, early detection and an eventual
20 cure will only come through cancer research; and

21 WHEREAS, government funding for cancer
22 research has been drastically reduced in recent years;
23 and

24 WHEREAS, fire fighters both active and retired
25 are being diagnosed and succumbing to certain types
26 of cancers at alarming rates; and

27 WHEREAS, the International Association of Fire
28 Fighters has recognized and made public that
29 “Cancer is the number one killer of fire fighters in

30 the fire service;” and

31 WHEREAS, fire fighters have a long and
32 distinguished history of not only taking care of our
33 own, but also taking care of others; and

34 WHEREAS, only one organization, the Retired
35 Professional Fire Fighters Cancer Fund, Inc., a non-
36 profit 501(c)3 organization founded by both active
37 and retired I.A.F.F. members -- none of whom
38 receive any salary or stipend but provide in kind
39 service -- has raised and donated over \$250,000 since
40 2010 to world renowned cancer research programs
41 across North America; however, in order to make a
42 greater impact, much more needs to be done; and

43 WHEREAS, there are organizations affiliated
44 with fire fighters who offer educational programs,
45 advocacy programs and personal support programs
46 for fire fighters diagnosed with cancer, but do not
47 provide funding for cancer research; and

48 WHEREAS, currently a cancer fund exists within
49 the IAFF of 3 cents per member per month, and this
50 funding has accomplished as of May 2018 the
51 following: Contributed to the V Foundation,
52 Fluorescent Aerosol Screening Test (F.A.S.T study),
53 U.S. Fire Station Dust Study (University of
54 California-Berkeley), Canadian Fire Station Dust
55 Study (University of California-Berkeley), Cancer
56 Summit 2016, and Cancer Summit 2018; and

57 WHEREAS, no one can deny that the IAFF has
58 accomplished much in the area of cancer research in
59 the last 4 years, however, much more needs to be
60 accomplished to attack this horrific disease that is
61 killing fire fighters; and

62 WHEREAS, the International Association of Fire

63 Fighters current per capita dues for Cancer Research
64 is currently 3 cents per month and generates
65 approximately \$90,000 per year for promising cancer
66 research, without significant financial burden to the
67 IAFF or its members with **ALL** funds going directly
68 to established cancer research programs and not a
69 third-party charity; and

70 WHEREAS, research programs selected will
71 focus on those cancers where there is documented
72 evidence that fire fighters have higher occurrence
73 rates when compared to the general population and,
74 where and when possible, said funds be given to
75 established cancer research programs in North
76 America; therefore be it

77 RESOLVED, That the current per capita be
78 increased from 3 cents to 5 cents which will generate
79 approximately \$175,000 total per year for cancer
80 research; and be it further

81 RESOLVED, That the IAFF Executive Board
82 will be the sole deciding organization in determining
83 where 100% of these funds are allocated for cancer
84 research programs.

Submitted by: Local 729, Binghamton, NY

Cost Estimate: 2 cents

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt

CONVENTION ACTION: Adopted