



FIRE DEPARTMENT
Michael A. Wilson, Fire Chief
4305 Santa Fe Avenue, Vernon, California 90058
Telephone (323) 583-8811 Fax (323) 826-1407

July 18, 2013

Monsignor John Moretta
Church of the Resurrection
3324 Opal Street
Los Angeles, California 90023

Dear Monsignor Moretta:

I would like to thank you for the letter I received from you yesterday, July 17, 2013, regarding a recent incident at Exide Technologies' battery recycling facility in Vernon. I appreciate your concern and thank you for bringing this issue to my attention.

The Vernon Fire Department is a full service, Class #1 emergency responder offering the best capabilities for handling hazardous material incidents, as well as fire, and urban search and rescue situations. We take residents' public safety and community concerns very seriously and with due diligence, act upon the information provided to us to protect the public's safety.

I have personally looked into the matters described in your letter involving Exide Technologies' plant on Sunday, July 7, 2013. I engaged my staff and the staffs of the Vernon Health and Environmental Control Department and Vernon Police Department during the course of my review of the circumstances.

It is important to note that, yesterday, July 17, was the first I had heard of this specific issue involving Exide. The Vernon Fire Department has no incident report on file regarding any occurrence at 2700 South Indiana Street on that date in Vernon because our department was not notified of any emergency response incident at Exide Technologies.

I spoke with Vernon Police Chief Daniel Calleros and no 911 or outside emergency call was made to our public safety communication center on that date or regarding an incident on that date. I spoke with our department's Fire Officer in charge on Sunday July 7th, and he stated that he did not receive a 911 call or walk-in notification of any emergency problems at Exide

Exclusively Industrial

Technologies. Vernon fire crews did not report any incidents on Exide's property in the area near its property, or from surrounding businesses on that date or regarding an incident that occurred on that date.

When I received your letter yesterday dated July 17th, I contacted Mr. Frank Hofmann of Exide Technologies. I visited Exide's facility with our on-duty Battalion Chief and our Code Enforcement Specialist. Mr. Hoffman indicated an incident had occurred at his company's plant. We met with Mr. Hofmann and walked the facility to gather information regarding the incident. I contacted Mr. Ed Pupka of the AQMD in the morning of July 18th who stated the incident is part of an ongoing AQMD investigation and that he will notify me with the results when the regional air quality agency's review is complete.

I have expressed my concern to both the AQMD and Exide Technologies about the need for prompt notification to the Vernon Fire Department of any fire incidents that could potentially place the public at risk. I have re-emphasized to my department personnel that they are to report any incidents or issues with Exide Technologies to the appropriate city officials and myself, and that would include any other business in the City.

We will faithfully and diligently continue to protect the public and ourselves from harm regarding exposure to potentially hazardous releases, whatever the source, and particularly in circumstances of a fire. I applaud your efforts to inform your congregation and community of circumstances that may be of concern to them.

If there is anything else I can assist you with feel free to contact me. Thank You.

Sincerely,



Michael A. Wilson
Fire Chief