

For Immediate Release  
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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Paxtang Borough notifies independent Paxtang Fire Company No. 1 to cease and desist unlawful operations**

Paxtang Borough issued a letter on October 3, 2024, directing the independent Paxtang Fire Company No. 1 to cease and desist exercising police powers without government authorization.

Paxtang Borough is a governing body, not law enforcement. Paxtang Borough informed the independent Paxtang Fire Company No. 1 of Pennsylvania law, which does not authorize a private entity to provide fire protection services absent government authorization. The Paxtang Fire Company has no such authority because Paxtang Borough terminated their services effective August 1, 2022, and no other government agency has contracted with the fire company since that time. At the time of termination, all individuals were encouraged to join another fire department and continue serving the community, however some of their members refused.

It is not fair for the taxpayers of Paxtang Borough to continue financially supporting the use of free building space and utilities for their former fire service who no longer serves Paxtang Borough. We filed for ejectment from the Paxtang Municipal Building in early 2023 and continue in litigation in Dauphin County Court.

Pennsylvania law is clear that volunteer fire companies may not exercise police powers without government authorization. The Paxtang Fire Company No. 1 has been formally informed that they are not above the law. Paxtang Borough will report all unlawful activities of the Paxtang Fire Company No. 1 to the appropriate law enforcement entities.

We have encouraged the members of Paxtang Fire Company No. 1 to contact their attorney for explanation of the law. For detailed timeline and information from 2022 to date, please visit [www.Paxtang.org](http://www.Paxtang.org) News and Noteworthy.

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