

Regarding Chief Faucet's response to a recent Letter to the Editor: "I'm not paying for fire services to respond to social needs"

The letter writer was clear. He most likely did try to assign his own title to his letter, but the Sun often as not assigns there own titles.

I did not read anywhere in the letter to editor written by gentleman in Port Orchard stating that SKFR was making a "Social Call" when responding to homeless situation. Stating such is beneath the Chief and his characterizing of this taxpayer will not help his cause to pass the August levy lid left measure.

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If residents call 911, South Kitsap Fire & Rescue is going to respond

Jeff Faucett, South Kitsap Fire & Rescue

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Recently, a resident in South Kitsap wrote a letter to the Kitsap Sun that [expressed his concerns for SKFR responding to homeless encampments and social issues](#) rather

than the police, Kitsap Mental Health or other agencies. As your fire chief, I want to clear up some apparent misunderstandings the author has with his local fire department. First, the response he referred to was not “just” a social call. In fact, it was a serious medical emergency that required the advance life support of our highly trained paramedics. It was not a call that our police are trained for; however, they will provide support anytime it is needed.

In Kitsap County, we have worked hard to create partnerships with other agencies so that we are getting the correct resources to the correct emergency at the right time. SKFR responds to all kinds of emergencies including fires, medical, wires down, flooding, and yes, we will even help you off the floor if needed. What SKFR will not do is avoid responding to a 911 call based on a social, mental, or behavioral incident. I have personally worked with our legislators to help identify problems with legislative changes to our 911 response and to gather support for solutions we all face.

In South Kitsap, if you call 911 and we can be of service to our community, we will be there, 24/7, period. I am proud of our firefighter/EMTs and Firefighter/Paramedics. If you would like to learn more about the fire levy, please visit www.skfr.org or contact me directly at jfaucett@skfr.org.

Jeff Faucett, fire chief, South Kitsap Fire & Rescue