

Published: Oct 5, 2005
Modified: Oct 5, 2005 7:51 AM

Cold-hearted Cary

Communities across our nation continue to generously respond to the devastation caused by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in Louisiana, Mississippi and the surrounding states. It is unfortunate that the Town of Cary has chosen to turn away from an opportunity to be counted among the kindhearted.

Recently President Andy Hiscock of the Cary Professional Fire Fighters Association asked the Town of Cary, through Fire Chief R. Allan Cain, for permission to use fire stations as collection points for funds for emergency workers along the Gulf Coast. They were also prepared to receive non-perishables that would be donated.

Cary firefighters are aware that many, if not most, of the emergency workers (fire, police and EMS) in the affected area have lost their homes and that their families are displaced along with the other citizens. Unlike their neighbors, emergency workers' families are often required to fend for themselves while firefighters and EMS workers continue to risk their lives to perform rescues and to protect and serve in numerous other ways to help return their communities to normalcy. Thus, Cary and other Triangle firefighters were eager to lend a hand.

The reply to the Cary firefighters' request came back from Cain: "After considering your request with the town manager and other staff, the town believes your request amounts to union activity and therefore is not an appropriate activity for town facilities. As such, we cannot approve the use of Cary Fire Stations as collection points for the relief collection effort."

When is caring and showing concern for the protectors of devastated communities a union activity and when is it a benevolent activity? I would think that Cary citizens would be outraged.

David R. Anders

President, Professional Fire Fighters and Paramedics of North Carolina

Asheville