



CITY OF STUART PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Ben Hogarth
Community Services
Phone: (772) 288-5333
bhogarth@ci.stuart.fl.us

CITY OF STUART, 121 SW FLAGLER AVENUE, STUART, FLORIDA 34994
WWW.CITYOFSTUART.US

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STUART OFFICIALS FIND NO SAVINGS IN FIRE/EMS MERGER TALKS WITH MARTIN COUNTY

Stuart, FL – After months of deliberations, Stuart City Commissioners voted unanimously this week to end Fire & Emergency Medical Services (EMS) merger talks with Martin County. Responding to an April, 2016 independent study sanctioned by both city and county officials, Stuart's Financial Services Director, Louis Boglioli, cautioned city officials on Monday that "consolidation, as proposed by the consulting firm of Fitch & Associates, may ultimately lead to higher costs and a lower level of service for Stuart residents and taxpayers."

In response to city staff's analysis, Commissioner Tom Campenni, stated, "I have no choice, there's no way I can support a plan that closes our practically brand new fire station on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, increases response times and taps our residents for more money."

Also voting to discontinue merger talks, Stuart Mayor, Jeff Krauskopf, did see an upside to exploring consolidation noting that the Fitch Report, "was not a wasted effort and likely includes a number of cost cutting recommendations that may be useful to both the City and Martin County."

Access to the City Financial Services Department's analysis of the Fitch Report and the report itself may be found on the City of Stuart website "Hot Topics" page at: <http://www.cityofstuart.us/index.php/hot-topics>

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