COMMISSION ON
FIRE CONSOLIDATION AND
GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY

The mission of this commission is:

To study the feasibility of consolidation of the three paid fire districts located within the Town of Greenburgh, these are the fire departments of:

1. Greenville,
2. Hartsdale, and
3. Fairview.

The overriding goal is no loss of existing services and possibly increasing fire protection while saving money by greater efficiencies achieved by consolidation.

Background

Recently Gov. Patterson signed into law a bill which would enable local governments and citizens to examine consolidating certain services provided by government. The goal is to eliminate duplication and waste in government, with the hope that services could be improved and suggested savings will be realized. The taxpayers of our town demand greater efficiencies so that our limited tax dollars are spent wisely. This study must be done in a timely manner so that if consolidation proves to be advantageous we will try to place it on the ballot by the 2010 general election. In addition an examination of town government will be made to see how we can improve the delivery of services and save money by eliminating waste.

The Commission:
Nine commissioners chosen by the chair with the approval of the town board. Each commissioner will reside within the Fire Districts. The chair of the commission is chosen by the Greenburgh Town Supervisor with the consent of the majority of the town board. The appointment of the 8 other commissioners will be with the consent of the town board upon recommendations of the chair.

The Work of the Commission

Recently a study was commissioned by the Westchester County Career Fire Chiefs Association with a $56,000 grant. This will be a starting point for the commission as well as other studies. Our objective is to go way beyond these initial reports and data so we may examine the operations in depth of the three departments. This will be done by visiting the fire houses with permission from the various commissioners and speaking to firemen as well as chiefs. As part of our research we will make comparisons of similar
size fire departments and the impact greater economies have on the operation of these departments.

In addition to research, we will hold public hearings and discussions with all interested parties. This should be a partnership between the fire departments, the public, and the Town of Greenburgh. We envisage the creation of task forces made up of citizens who will assist with the gathering of data.

Oversight and direction of the work will be conducted by the commissioners at the request of the chair.