



BLACK HAWK



INCORPORATED 1864

Office of the City Manager

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City Attorney

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City Manager

Stephen N. Cole

City Clerk /

Administrative Services Director

Melissa A. Greiner

Community Planning & Development

Director

Cynthia L. Linker

Finance Director

Lance R. Hillis

Fire Chief / Emergency Manager

Christopher K. Woolley

Police Chief

Michelle Moriarty

Public Works Director

Thomas Isbester

COLORADO'S SECOND OLDEST
MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

March 31, 2025

Mayor and Board of Aldermen
Daniel R. Miera, City Manager
P.O. Box 249
141 Nevada Street
Central City, Colorado 80427

Delivered via Certified Mail: 7013 0600 0000 4243 2071

**Re: Notice of Termination
Mutual Aid Agreement dated August 9, 2013**

Mayor Fey, Members of the Board of Aldermen, and Mr. Miera:

Pursuant to Section 14 of that Intergovernmental Agreement for Mutual Aid between Fire Departments, dated August 9, 2013 between the City of Black Hawk, the City of Central, and the Timberline Fire Protection District (the "2013 Mutual Aid Agreement"), please let this correspondence serve as thirty (30) days' written notice of the City of Black Hawk's termination of the 2013 Mutual Aid Agreement as it relates to mutual aid between the fire departments of the City of Black Hawk and the City of Central. While the 2013 Mutual Aid Agreement is a three-party agreement, this notice is not intended to address the mutual aid provided between the City of Black Hawk and Timberline Fire Protection District, which is subject to that separate Amended and Restated Mutual Aid and Automatic Aid Agreement dated August 16, 2022.

Based on the discussion at the meeting of the City of Black Hawk City Council on March 26, 2025, and the corresponding motion made by the City of Black Hawk City Council directing that the City of Black Hawk provide this notice of termination of the 2013 Mutual Aid Agreement to the City of Central, the basis for this notice is that such aid currently provided by the City of Black Hawk to the City of Central has been substantial, while the City of Central's mutual aid to Black Hawk is deficient. More specifically, based on the current composition of the Central City Fire Department, the Central City Fire Department simply does not have the capacity to provide mutual aid to the City of Black Hawk. Thus, the City of Black Hawk has been unable to rely on mutual aid from

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the Central City Fire Department, and has not done so since 2019, when Black Hawk made mutual aid requests on two occasions.

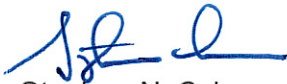
As you are no doubt aware, both the 2017 Central City Fire Department Gap Analysis Assessment and the more recent 2024 Central City Fire Department Long Range Master Plan report identify that the limited availability of trained personnel in the Central City Fire Department results in slower response times, a lack of availability of personnel to respond, and increased reliance on mutual aid. As a result of the current composition of the Central City Fire Department, recent events demonstrate that the City of Black Hawk Fire Department has become the de facto first responder to fire events in Central City.

In addition, it is apparent that compliance by the Central City Fire Department with Section 7 of the 2013 Mutual Aid Agreement has become impossible. As the recent response by the Central City Fire Department to the February 12, 2025 structure fire at the Gold Mountain Village Apartments in the City of Central illustrates, the Central City Fire Department does not have the personnel or the equipment to meet the demands within Central City Fire Department's own territorial area, let alone provide mutual aid to the City of Black Hawk.

Moreover, the analysis referenced above from 2017 and 2024 and the Central City Fire Department's response to recent fire events in the City of Central only serves to reinforce that Central City is simply unable to provide mutual aid to the City of Black Hawk if the City of Black Hawk needed such assistance. Likewise, Black Hawk does not have any information on the certifications of those members of the Central City Fire Department that may respond to such a request for mutual aid, and this additional fact creates more risk to the City of Black Hawk in requesting mutual aid from the Central City Fire Department when it has no understanding of the certifications and level of training of the current members of the Central City Fire Department.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Stephen N. Cole
City Manager

- c: Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Black Hawk
- Christopher Woolley, Black Hawk Fire Chief
- Corey Y. Hoffmann, Black Hawk City Attorney
- Timberline Fire Protection District
- Don Ireland, Weekly Register Call