

9/12/07 To: The Honorable Members of Council  
City Manager  
Chief Thiel

Office of the President  
Board of Directors  
Alexandria Knolls West  
6101 Edsall Road  
Alexandria, Virginia 22304

orals e  
9-11-07

ORALS

August 28, 2007

**The Honorable William D. Euille:**  
Office of the Mayor  
City of Alexandria  
301 King Street  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

RECEIVED  
SEP 04 2007

**The Honorable William D. Euille:**

**Alexandria Knolls West was hit by lightning on the evening of Saturday, August 28, 2007. As a result, there was a fire which caused an extensive amount of damage to our building.**

**We believe the exemplary actions on the part of the Fire Department and Emergency Medical Technician staff minimized further damage to our building and our residents.**

**We were especially pleased with the professionalism of the Fire Chief Adam Thiel, the Battalion Chief Mike Farri, their Lieutenant Dave Bogozi, and the fire fighters and EMS staff.**

**When they arrived on station, they immediately set up a command post and control center. They learned the names and unit numbers of elderly residents and dispatched fire fighters to ensure that these residents were not in further need of medical assistance, or brought them safely out of the building.**

**They methodically located the sources of the fire and promptly extinguished the blazes, minimizing further damage to individual apartments and the building as a whole.**

**The operation was executed promptly and with precision--we were impressed with their professionalism.**

**The Chief interfaced very well with the residents and provided them with timely information so we were able to make appropriate plans.**

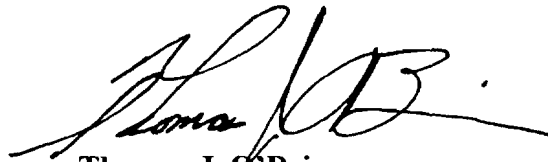
**The Deputy Fire Marshall and fire inspectors worked together to ensure a safe environment before the residents were allowed to return to their homes. We believe**

**that we were able to safely reoccupy our units that night because as a team, everyone worked together and did their part without regard to their own comfort and personal safety.**

**The residents greatly appreciated the air-conditioned buses and water that was made available during this ordeal.**

**We understand that six firefighters were hospitalized and we wish for their speedy recovery.**

**Thank you to all who worked tirelessly on our behalf that night! It was a long night for all of us!**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas J. O'Brien". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "T" and "O".

**Thomas J. O'Brien  
President  
Alexandria Knolls West  
Board of Directors**