



## *New Canaan Firefighters*

*Local 3224  
60 Main Street  
New Canaan, Connecticut 06840*

November 24, 2025

The New Canaan Firefighters Union stands unequivocally for integrity, accountability, and the fair treatment of every firefighter that we represent. These are not negotiable principles, they are the foundation of a functional, safe, and respected fire service. When the highest ranking officer in the department is suspended for ethics violations confirmed by a Town investigation, it represents a profound breach of trust that the Union cannot ignore and will not minimize.

During this Summer's promotional process, serious concerns arose regarding outside business activity connected to Chief Albert Bassett. It became known that Chief Bassett had a financial interest in a promotional consulting company utilized by some candidates within the department. Following an ethics complaint filed with the Town, the investigation report concluded that Chief Bassett violated ethics provisions related to conflicts of interest. The report specifically states "Chief Bassett's failure to disclose his financial interest and recuse himself from the examination process constitutes a violation of the Ethics Code". He was subsequently suspended for five days without pay by the Fire Commission.

Compounding these issues was the Chief's level of involvement in the promotional process. From the Union's perspective, Chief Bassett exceeded the authority clearly outlined in the Collective Bargaining Agreement. Although the Fire Commission made the final selections, the overall process was clouded by actions that created the appearance of undue influence. That appearance alone damages confidence in any future promotion overseen by leadership who's ethical judgement has already been formally questioned.

Additionally, department members have expressed safety concerns over the management and maintenance of the fire apparatus. Stop engine warnings, fire pump problems, low coolant alarms, leaking hub seals, braking system air leaks, water tank leaks and broken compartment doors are a few examples of issues which have been reported for months yet remain unresolved. Confusion and frustration grows as conflicting emails emanate from the Chiefs office over apparatus in service status.

For the Union, these matters are far more than administrative irregularities. They represent a fundamental breakdown in leadership. When the Fire Chief who sets the tone for the entire department is found to have violated the Town Code of Ethics, and when additional complaints remain unanswered, our members cannot be expected to place faith in the impartiality or integrity of the management structure above them. The New Canaan Firefighters Union cannot and will not trust a leadership environment compromised by such unresolved and concerning circumstances. For the reasons listed above along with other internal concerns, the New Canaan Firefighters Union has formally filed a Vote of No Confidence in Fire Chief Albert Bassett.

Despite this, we remain committed to providing the best possible service to the citizens of New Canaan. Professionalism does not mean silence in the face of misconduct. We expect transparency, timely responses to complaints, truthfulness, corrective action where warranted, and absolute adherence to ethical standards at every rank starting from the top. We demand department leadership that models integrity, not leadership that erodes it. Our firefighters and the residents of New Canaan deserve nothing less.

Respectfully,

New Canaan Firefighters  
Local 3224