



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS

NEWS from Fire Fighters

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IAFF Statement on Charleston Sofa Store Phase II Report Release

Washington, DC – *International Association of Fire Fighters General President Harold Schaitberger issued this statement today following the release of the Phase II report of the Charleston Post Incident Assessment and Review Team.*

“Last June 18, nine of Charleston’s bravest were killed in the line of duty. This report, with its sobering and powerful conclusions, is sure to rekindle justifiably strong emotions related to the deaths of the Charleston Nine.

“This union’s biggest concern now is for the future and the safety of the tenth family in the June 18 tragedy – the fire fighters of Charleston who are still on the job.

“Massive changes have been recommended in earlier reports by the Fire Review Team, and even more changes will be apparent once we absorb the compelling facts in this new report. It is now our job to make sure those changes are being legitimately and effectively completed as quickly as possible. The original conclusions drawn by South Carolina OSHA and the subsequent settlement agreement signed by the City contain clear, mandated commitments that must be tracked and verified.

“The IAFF and Local 61 will continue to commit the necessary resources and time, working in partnership with the City, to ensure that all of the necessary safety improvements, at every level, occur in a timely fashion and that they are up to the standards set by Mayor Riley – which is to ensure that the Charleston Fire Department becomes a model for safe and effective fire operations going forward.”

The IAFF is the world’s largest fire fighters union, representing 288,000 fire fighters and emergency medical professionals across the United States and Canada.

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