

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Board of County Commissioners

June 19, 2024



### **Okaloosa Board of County Commissioners to Initially serve as governing board of Dorcas Fire District following signing of HB 897**

**(Okaloosa County, Florida)** – The Okaloosa Board of County Commissioners will initially serve as the governing board of the Dorcas Fire District following the signing of House Bill 897 (HB 897) by Gov. Ron DeSantis on June 13, 2024. This was initiated at the state level and is not a County pursuit.

The bill changes the District’s status from an independent district to a dependent special district. There will be no interruption of emergency service to Dorcas-area residents.

Commissioners voted on Tuesday, June 18, 2024, to suspend current operations at the Dorcas Fire District and implement mutual aid agreements with neighboring fire districts to sustain the continuity of emergency services for Dorcas area residents.

The Okaloosa Board of County Commissioners will decide at a future Dorcas Fire District Board meeting how the District will operate and be governed.

Residents in the Dorcas Fire District that need to make impact fee payments, can make those payments at the Okaloosa County Growth Management office in Crestview, located at 812 E. James Lee Blvd. Crestview, FL 32536.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER NICK TOMECEK AT 850.651.7321

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