

To whom it may concern,

My name is Brett Keene and I am with the Anchorage Fire Department. I am a third generation Anchorage Firefighter and I am very proud of that. It has been an honor for myself and my family to serve the people of Anchorage for so many years and I hope to continue to do that for as long as I can. The retirement plans that both my father and grandfather had gave them security to stay in a career that is so demanding because they knew they would be able to live happily after. As I look to carry on this tradition that my family has started it is hard not to consider looking to work elsewhere. I have tested with multiple departments outside of Alaska and have turned down interviews and other job opportunities because the Anchorage Fire Department and because Alaska is where I will always call home.

Outside of working for the fire department and I have always thought of myself as a true Alaskan. I love to spend time in the outdoors, out on the water and I even chose to stay in state to go to college. I attended the University of Alaska Fairbanks where I received a degree in Fire science and Emergency management. In this time I also worked for the University Fire department where I met many driven young Alaskans who hoped to get into the fire service or the public safety sector. I am sad to say I have seen many great people leave the state for other programs solely because of better benefits and retirement.

Lastly I would just like to conclude this by saying thank you all for the time and effort that you put in year in and year out for our state and the people who live here. I hope to stay in Alaska serving alongside all of you for many years to come.

Sincerely,

Brett Keene

Anchorage Fire Department.