

TOWN OF EAST SPENCER STATEMENT CONCERNING THE DUNBAR HIGH SCHOOL RESOURCE CENTER FIRE

**Press Release
Wednesday, December 31, 2014**

Today is a sad day for the Town of East Spencer. The Dunbar High School was and has been a cultural center for our community from our earliest days. It is sad to lose a monument of our community and a focus point of our history. Dunbar has been a central part of the lives of so many of our citizens.

Yet even as we try to absorb about our loss, we are hopeful and optimistic that a new chapter will open for the property. A number of groups and individuals have come forward with ideas and proposals for a future for the property and we hope either one of these, or some new interests may yet find an opportunity here to utilize this marvelous site.

We have so many to thank for the management and suppression of last night's fire. Our Town Department, led by Chief Shawn McBride, did a marvelous job. We were greatly assisted by our friends and neighbors. A total of 18 fire departments responded and participated in getting the situation under control as quickly as possible, as well many community agencies who supported their efforts. In addition to the ESFD, we need to thank the Salisbury Fire Department as well departments throughout Rowan County. These departments include Miller's Ferry, Spencer, Woodleaf, Ellis, Franklin, Granite Quarry, Faith, Bostian Heights, South Salisbury, Union, Liberty, and Locke. Also responding were Davidson County Fire Departments from Lywood, South Lexington, and Churchland as well as the Davidson Fire Marshall Office. Other agencies playing critical roles were East Spencer Police and Salisbury police, East Spencer Public Works, Rowan Fire Marshall and Rescue, Salisbury Rowan Utilities, our local American Red Cross personnel, members from Southern City AME Zion Church, and SBI. There are countless volunteers who labored through the night to control the fire and protect the neighborhood. We thank all of them.

There is also some good news. No one was injured or hurt during the response. Prudent on-site management was a key to this outcome.

After assessing conditions on-site this morning, the Town declares the building strictly off limits to everyone except authorized public safety and investigative personnel. There are obviously many hazards at such a fire damaged site and we want to protect everyone from injury. The Town will appreciate the cooperation and understanding of the public in this regard.

For more information, contact:

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