



Date: January 27, 2020

To: Thomas B. Modica, Acting City Manager *T.M.*

From: Xavier Espino, Fire Chief *X.E.*

For: Mayor and Members of the City Council

Subject: **Status of Potential Temporary and Permanent Sites for Apparatus from Station 9**

In memorandums published on August 20 and August 30, 2019, staff provided information to the City Council regarding the relocation of apparatus from Fire Station 9, at 3917 Long Beach Boulevard. Given the concern of water penetration into areas inhabited by Long Beach Fire Department (LBPD) personnel assigned to Fire Station 9, the history of active mold in the station, the history of previous illnesses reported by crew members, and the likely extent of required repairs, Engine 9 was moved to Fire Station 16 (2890 East Wardlow Road) and Rescue 9 was moved to Fire Station 13 (2475 Adriatic Avenue). Fire Stations 13 and 16 were chosen for the short-term, temporary relocation of Fire Station 9 resources because they share contiguous response area borders with Fire Station 9 and minimize the impacts of the move. These apparatus and their respective crews have been operating out of these locations since June 18, 2019.

Temporary Site for Fire Station 9

Immediately after the apparatus move, City staff began exploring options to identify a longer-term temporary location for Fire Station 9 apparatus. Staff evaluated over 15 locations to determine which site would best meet the service delivery needs of the community. Staff focused on properties within a one-mile radius of existing Fire Station 9 with the ability to house both the apparatus and crews of Engine 9 and Rescue 9. Given the available options, it was determined that the best site for temporarily relocating Fire Engine 9 and Rescue 9 is 3917 Long Beach Boulevard. This will necessitate the demolition of Fire Station 9, which requires preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act. After demolition, staff will coordinate the construction and installation of temporary structures for that apparatus, as well as modular trailers to house Engine 9 and Rescue 9 personnel. The EIR process is estimated to be completed in June 2020, at that time, staff will be able to provide a timeframe for returning Fire Station 9 apparatus to 3917 Long Beach Boulevard.

Permanent Site for Fire Station 9

Concurrent with coordinating the temporary return of Engine 9 and Rescue 9 to 3917 Long Beach Boulevard, City staff is coordinating the process to identify and negotiate purchase of a new, permanent site for Fire Station 9. Criteria for the permanent site includes a property that is in close proximity to 3917 Long Beach Boulevard, allows quick access to a

major corridor, supports a fire station large enough to house Engine 9, Rescue 9, and their respective personnel, and allows for future expansion. City staff from the Economic Development and Public Works Departments have been meeting with owners of potential sites that meet the above criteria and are exploring various options. At present, staff are in productive discussions with the property owner at 4150 Long Beach Boulevard. This site appears to be very promising and an excellent location for service to the community. Ongoing negotiations have been productive. Staff hope to bring a recommendation to the City Council in closed session in the first quarter of 2020, and with City Council approval, in open session shortly thereafter.

Minimal Impact on Response Times

The EMS model for Long Beach is a system with various apparatus positioned to cover the City. Every fire station within the City is responsible for the immediately surrounding area. The response times for the apparatus assigned to that station are a reflection of several factors, such as traffic patterns in that neighborhood, geography, and distance from other nearby stations. Typically, response times are shortest closer to the station and increase with the distance from the station. This is true for the temporary relocation of Engine 9 to Fire Station 16. The system as a whole continues to work well and we are not seeing response times that are of concern.

Funding Provided by City Council

The City Council took swift action in September 2019 to identify \$1,514,645 immediately for relocation efforts, as well as an additional \$3,246,865 to support property acquisition and construction costs over the next three years. An additional \$3 million has been identified and may be appropriated if there is sufficient surplus from Fiscal Year 2019. All funding was made possible using Measure A revenues. This quick response and financial commitment from the City Council, with total potential Measure A funding of \$7,761,510 over the next four years, recognizes the criticality of this project and will allow staff to proceed expeditiously as we implement a solution that is in the best interest of the City.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at (562) 570-2509.

XDE:RT:ARA

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