



October 11, 2015

Kurt Triplett  
City Manager  
City of Kirkland  
123 Fifth Avenue  
Kirkland, WA 98033

**RE: North Kirkland Fire Station Proposal Comments**

Dear Mr. Triplett:

On behalf of the Board of the Finn Hill Neighborhood Alliance, we want to thank you for working to evaluate options to improve fire and emergency response times to North Kirkland. As you know, this effort has been a long and involved process, starting more than 10 years ago with the former Fire District #41 Commissioners identifying the need for a “consolidated fire station” for Finn Hill. Based on recent conversations with you and Fire Department staff, it appears the City is now proposing to move forward with a “dual station” model which retains Fire Station 25 at its current location on Holmes Point Drive and proposes a new station be built near the intersection of NE 132nd Street and 100th Avenue NE to better serve the Finn Hill and Juanita Neighborhoods. The new station would essentially replace and more centrally locate the closed Fire Station 24 at the corner of 84th Avenue NE and NE 141st Street.

We recognize you and other staff have worked hard over the last two years to collaborate closely with FHNA, the firefighters, City Council, and other stakeholders to bring this issue to a resolution that would best serve all the neighborhoods of North Kirkland. Though many ideas have had serious consideration, including moving Fire Station 25 further north near Sandberg Elementary or rethinking how to use the existing substandard Fire Station 24, the compromise dual station proposal will likely provide excellent long-term service to the neighborhood.

As representatives of the neighborhood, we conditionally support the proposed dual station model that uses the funds from Fire District #41 assets to modernize and upgrade Fire Station 25 on Holmes Point Drive, and uses the remaining funds to purchase property in Juanita for a future Fire Station.

The proposed dual station plan will not be operational until the new Fire Station 24 is built and staffed in Juanita. Constructing a new station will require future revenue which has not been secured, and therefore is not certain. Consequently, our support for the dual station proposal is conditioned with the request that the City include additional measures to ensure the residents of North Kirkland receive the best fire and emergency response service possible pending completion of the new station. These measures are listed below.

1. We ask that you continue working hard to reach an agreement between the Northshore Fire Department and the City of Kirkland to joint staff the existing Fire Station 24 until the new fire station is constructed in Juanita. We recognize there are complex challenges that have to be worked out between affected parties, specifically each of the firefighter unions. Nonetheless, a joint staffing solution would provide the best service for all of Finn Hill, including our neighbors to the north in the City of Kenmore.
2. If the above measure is unsuccessful, we believe the City needs to commit a fourth fire fighter to Station 25 as an “ongoing” resource. Currently the fourth fire fighter is an interim position, being staffed by existing fire fighters who work overtime. The presence of a fourth fire fighter in Station 25 would significantly enhance that station’s ability to respond to fire and other emergencies without having to wait for assistance from units dispatched by other stations.
3. Finally, we request that the City suspend the evaluation of removing the street barricades found throughout Finn Hill. While we were originally supportive of replacing the barricades with automated bollards or gates that would allow for emergency vehicle access, questions arose about their cost and whether removing them altogether would be a better solution. There is significant community concern with removing the barricades, therefore it is best that the City instead focus on reaching resolution on the fire station situation.

We’d like to thank all those who have spent many hours working to resolve this issue, and find ways to improve emergency and fire response to the northern neighborhoods.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions regarding our comments.

Respectfully,  
On Behalf of the Finn Hill Neighborhood Alliance Board of Directors



Scott Morris  
President