



United Professional Firefighters Contra Costa • Local 1230

112 Blue Ridge Drive • Martinez, California 94553

Phone (925) 932-1230 • Fax (925) 932-1521 • www.contracostafirefighters.org

Kensington Fire Protection District Board of Directors,

As the renovation of Kensington Fire Station continues, I would like to voice our support of the current, board-approved plan for a Fire-only Public Safety Building in Kensington. This renovation will support a proper working environment for your firefighters while ensuring the seismic and general safety measures that are necessary for continued, high quality emergency response to the Kensington Community. While both fire and police shared the PSB for several years, both agencies agreed that the space available to properly perform all functions of public safety left much to be desired. With regards to the Fire District staffing, issues such as lack of dorm room space for regular and increased staffing models, insufficient office and records space, and a cramped exercise area were a few of the physical challenges that were navigated through by personnel. In terms of basic safety, prisoners/detainees were handcuffed to a bar near a bench in a patrol room that easily accessed the fire station's day room, kitchen, and dorm areas. Additionally, the differing shift schedules between fire and police often resulted in unintentional, yet undesirable disruption of rest periods for those that were on-duty for multiple 24-hour work periods. Lastly, the lengthy and costly delays of altering the current plan not only postpones the readiness of a proper working environment, but potentially places the District in a poor financial position. This, in turn, could have a negative effect on the contract for service with El Cerrito and the nine union members employed through the agreement.

Through the years, this building/workspace has unsuccessfully undergone several renovations attempting to provide a suitable workspace. Several studies and subject matter experts were consulted in determining the need for a Fire-only Public Safety Building. This included a Joint Needs Analysis that determined that square footage provided through this renovation was still less than recommended for use by the Fire District alone. Additionally, the Executive Chiefs of both agencies have voiced their concerns regarding the inadequacies of jointly occupying this space. On behalf of the members of the United Professional Firefighters of Contra Costa County, I urge you to use the expert information solicited by the District and those who will occupy the PSB to continue with the renovation plans that are currently in progress.

Respectfully submitted,

Vince Wells, President of IAFF Local 1230