


September 2, 2020

To: Mayor and Members of City Council

From: Paula Boggs Muething, Interim City Manager  202001174

Subject: Feasibility and Cost of Purchasing Land and Building a New Regional Shooting Range Structure in Hamilton County

---

REFERENCE DOCUMENT #202000499

On April 29, 2020, the Law and Public Safety Committee referred the following for a report:

MOTION, submitted by Vice Mayor Smitherman, WE MOVE the City Administration prepare and provide a report to City Council on the total cost of purchasing land and building a new regional shooting range structure in Hamilton County. Also include in the report the cost of using/renting another shooting range while the new range is built.

**COST OF PURCHASING LAND AND BUILDING A NEW REGIONAL SHOOTING RANGE STRUCTURE IN HAMILTON COUNTY**

On December 9, 2019, the Administration provided a report to Council, Document #201901806, that summarized present use, spatial needs, and estimated costs of relocating the Cincinnati Police (CPD) Target Range, currently in Lincoln Heights. As detailed within the report, estimates for the construction of a similar outdoor target range would be \$4.6M and an indoor facility, that would not include a long-distance sniper target range, would cost approximately \$9.7M. These estimates do not include the cost of land and overall site development. Also, a dog training course will not be feasible at a new facility with less acreage than the current range in Lincoln Heights. Although the City has yet to identify alternative sites for relocation, private partners are also assessing sites for consideration; however, based off initial land assessments, a new outdoor target range may only be feasible well outside of the I-275 loop.

On January 27, 2020, the Administration released a Request for Information (RFI) on the feasibility to reduce noise at the facility. Of 627 general construction and acoustics companies notified, only one (1) formal response was received. The response, as provided by Megen Construction, included nine (9) options for consideration and were attached in a report to council on March 3, 2020, Document #202000347. In summary, the nine (9) options ranged from \$450,000 to extend concrete barriers to \$2,270,000 for a fully enclosed pre-engineered metal building.

**USING/RENTING ANOTHER SHOOTING RANGE**

In response to Motion 202000499, the following target ranges were contacted: Shoot Point Blank, Target World, Butler Tech, Hamilton County Sheriff's Office, and Ready Line. Although range time rental costs varied from annual, monthly, to hourly rates between \$250 a year per person to \$60 a month per person to \$25 an hour per person, each range contacted indicated that they could not rent to CPD the amount of range time needed for CPD's required training hours nor would the

ranges be willing to lease their entire facility to CPD. A complete listing of required training hours is detailed in Document #201901806 (attached).

In addition to limited facility access, ranges open to the public come with officer and equipment safety concerns. Public ranges cannot guarantee that the same level of firearm discipline is exercised across the various weapon skill levels of their clientele; therefore, officers would be subjected to uncertain conditions by public users. Likewise, CPD would not be comfortable storing City weapons or ammunition in a public facility and transporting training equipment daily poses additional risks of property loss or damage.

When contacting the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office (HCSO) regarding possible shared use of their facility, CPD learned that HCSO is also receiving complaints about the loud noise coming from their range. When the County initially built their target range on East Miami River Road, the area was not as heavily populated as it is today and adding CPD's use of the County range would only exacerbate the noise complaints from nearby residents.

### **SUMMARY**

Of the five (5) area ranges contacted, none were able to accommodate the amount of range time needed for CPD's required trainings nor were any of the ranges willing to lease out their entire facility. The City has received (9) options from Megen Construction to reduce noise at the current facility, ranging in cost from \$450K for barrier extensions to approximately \$2.3M for a fully enclosed metal building. Although indoor firing ranges are popular among recreational shooters, key environmental and occupational controls are necessary to protect the health of officers from the effects of airborne lead, noise, and other potential exposures. In general, although work is underway to identify potential relocation sites, construction of a comparable outdoor range would be approximately \$4.6M and \$9.7M for an indoor facility and these estimates do not include the cost for land acquisition. Lastly, to reduce the noise at the current facility or to eventually relocate the range, once an appropriate site has been identified, Cincinnati City Council will need to pass the applicable budget ordinances to fund either effort.

cc: Eliot Isaac, Chief of Police, Cincinnati Police Department