

September 7, 2023

To: Mayor and Members of City Council 202301916
From: Sheryl M.M. Long, City Manager
Subject: Average Fire Department Response Times by Neighborhood

Reference Document #202300353

The City Council, at its session on January 25, 2023, referred to the following item for review and report:

MOTION, submitted by Councilmember Parks, **WE MOVE** that the administration prepare a report within sixty (60) days outlining average fire department response times by neighborhood. For the neighborhoods with the longest response times, this report should also give suggestions on how to reduce this, including looking at the feasibility of implementing temporary fire station structures.

The Cincinnati Fire Department (CFD) received reference document #202300353 on January 26, 2023, to provide a report regarding average response times by neighborhood (see attachment). For the neighborhoods with the longest response times, this report should also give suggestions on how to reduce this, including looking at the feasibility of implementing temporary fire station structures.

After discussing temporary fire station structures with the City Facilities section of our Public Works department, it was determined a temporary fire station is not a viable option. There are concerns regarding getting permits for a temporary structure that would, in reality, be occupied permanently 24/7, 365 days a year. This would not be considered temporary. Additionally, since is a first responder asset, the housing conditions must meet certain criteria so during an emergency, the first responders could be relied on to respond when needed. A temporary structure would not meet this criterion and a temporary structure would be more susceptible to damage during a weather (tornado) emergency.

The CFD has identified our neighborhoods with the longest responses trend in the northwestern portion of Westwood, Western Hills, Roll Hill Village and East Westwood (see attached slides). These communities not only had delays in service delivery, but also the largest number of responses by area.

In 2022, the CFD responded to over 83,167 incidents. Of the 26 firehouses in the City of Cincinnati, the median company annual response during 2022 was 2721 incidents with a mean of 2832 incidents. By comparison, E35's house (Westwood) responded to a total of 6,430 incidents - a staggering difference of 77.7% above the average or 7.7% of the city's total. E24 (Price Hill) responded to a total of 5,149 incidents or 6.2% of the city's total. Looking at historical CAGIS data from 1/24/2017 to 2/16/2023 (2,214 days) E35 averages 8,270 runs/year and E24 averages 5,757 runs/year in their current service areas.

If a new firehouse is built in the vicinity of Queen City and Boudinot Avenue, the proposed service areas would average: E35 4,756/year, E24 4,845/year, and the new E01 4,427/year, a much more manageable number of runs for a company. If an additional fire house is not built in this location, the west side of town will continue to have a delay in service-delivery due to the number of incidents in this service area. Other companies will have to respond into these areas causing a longer response times.

Compounding these delays in response and increased service demand, building a new fire station in the identified area would provide an immediate solution to these data trends. The CFD recommends building a new permanent fire station in the vicinity of the intersection of Boudinot and Queen City Avenue, (3131 Queen City Avenue) to help improve the city-wide service delivery objective to improve efficiency, effectiveness, and customer satisfaction of city services.

This will help reduce the run volume for both station 24 (Price Hill) and station 35 (Westwood) allowing for a more even distribution and timely service delivery to these communities.

cc: Steven A. Breitfelder, Fire Chief – Interim