

12/09/2019

To: Mayor and Members of City Council
 From: Patrick A. Duhaney, City Manager
 Subject: Feasibility of Relocating the Cincinnati Police Target Range

In September 2019, elected representatives of Lincoln Heights, Woodlawn and Lockland raised concerns regarding the Cincinnati Police target range located in Evendale, Ohio. In response, the Administration has compiled the following report on the feasibility of relocating the Cincinnati Police Department's (CPD) target range. This report includes current use, special needs, cost estimates and efforts made by CPD to be within good standing with surrounding neighbors.

CURRENT USE

The Cincinnati Police target range, located in Evendale, was originally built as a private gun club before being purchased by the City in the 1940s. Under CPD ownership, the facility has undergone several small-scale remodels to meet the evolving needs of the CPD. The range currently sits on approximately 30 acres and encompasses a target range, a dog training course, and multipurpose facilities that house an armory, ammunition storeroom, staff offices, classrooms and restrooms.

CPD currently utilizes the facility approximately 300 dates per year for training that is based upon National and State of Ohio mandated standards for certification. This volume of use ensures that CPD personnel achieve the highest level of personal and group involved training, credited to exceptional response to critical events in the community such as the 5th/3rd Active Shooter incident. The chart below details training categories and the associated number of personnel hours dedicated to a specific function. This information is based upon 2019 completed and scheduled training and computes as the number attending the training multiplied by the number of training hours to equal the total personnel training hours.

Agency/Section/Unit	Function	Total Personnel Training Hours
CPD Training Section	Annual Firearms Qualification	8,000
CPD Training Section	Firearms Familiarization	8,000
CPD Training Section	Patrol Rifle Qualification	5,000
CPD Training Section	Police Recruit Qualification (45 officers)	540
CPD Training Section	Remedial Driving Training	80
CPD Training Section	Tactical Mindset for Female Police Officer	250
CPD Training Section	Equipment Testing, Evaluation and Repair	100
CPD Training Section	Open Range Practice for Sworn (Noon)	200
SWAT	Monthly Training Requirements (50 officers)	4,800

SWAT	SNIPER Training	250
SWAT	GAS Injection Team	200
SWAT	Explosive Breaching Team	250
SWAT	National Tier One Critical Skills Certification	9,500
Police Canine Unit	New Canine Training and Certification (16 weeks)	640
Police Canine Unit	Weekly Regional Training and Certification	10,000
Clandestine Lab Team	Training and Familiarization	450
Civil Defense Response Team	Monthly Training Requirements (50 officers)	1,000
US Drug Enforcement Administration	Monthly Familiarization Shooting	40
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms	Monthly Familiarization Shooting	40
Federal Bureau of Investigations	Monthly Familiarization Shooting	40
Evendale Police Department	Monthly Familiarization Shooting	40
Total Training Personnel Hours		49,420

SPATIAL NEEDS

The facility contains two outdoor specialized firing ranges, one of which is covered. Each range has a 50-foot concrete backdrop and specialized lead catch basin. The firing range (the area closest to live shooting) contains two outbuildings, one is an approximately 800 square foot ventilated multi-purpose utility building and the other a 100 square foot range control house. The multi-purpose building serves several purposes which includes, but is not limited to, equipment storage, low light tactical training emergency shelter and medical treatment areas. The range control house serves multiple purposes as well, which includes a centralized location for the range safety officer, electronic target control and audio instructions via public intercom and firearm inspection and repairs.

The Target Range also has an approximately 3,000 square foot climate-controlled range area with offices for the staff, a weapons armory, two classrooms, lunch area, garage and storage areas. The secured facility allows for on-site storage of Department firearms, ammunition, and special needs equipment. The operational armory provides cost saving to the City and Department by allowing the trained and certified Firearm Armorers to conduct inspections and repairs onsite, which reduces costs associated with repairs and time delays. The Target Range grounds are also utilized for testing, training and certification of CPD and other local law enforcement agencies and police canine teams pursuant to United States Police Canine Team Certification Standards. Please note that there are 48 U.S. Supreme and Federal District Court rulings establishing by the USPCA as the national standard.

Also, the Target Range grounds are utilized for specialized response training for the Civil Disturbance Response Team and SWAT team. The grounds provide the opportunity to train in a secure environment outside the public view.

COST ESTIMATES

Omitting the cost of land and overall site development, the City of Cincinnati Facility Management (CFM) estimates that the construction of a similar outdoor target range would be approximately \$4.6M. This includes an outdoor 30 person/station target range, a ground berm around the perimeter of the range, and a 4,000 square foot building to house the armory, ammunition storeroom, staff offices, classrooms and restrooms. Also not included in this \$4.6M cost estimated is the cost for dog training, a long-distance sniper target range or the cost to any overhead canopy or baffling.

If a rural relocation site is not available for an outdoor range and a more urban site is selected, this would require the construction of an indoor facility to provide the same basic capabilities as the current outdoor facility. Even with omitting the cost of land development and overall site construction, the estimates of an indoor facility would cost approximately \$9.7M. This would include a 27,750 square foot warehouse style building to house a 30-station indoor target range with appropriate HVAC and lead dust filtration systems and an additional 4,000 square feet to house the armory, ammunition storeroom, staff offices, classrooms and restrooms.

If an urban indoor facility is constructed, a long-distance sniper target range could not be included, and depending on the acreage and other logistics a dog training course may not be feasible. At this time, no potential relocation site(s) have been identified within the city limits or surrounding areas.

GOOD NEIGHBORLY EFFORTS

The Cincinnati Police Department and range staff make continuous efforts at being considerate and respectful to the surrounding communities. These efforts are demonstrated in several financial, operational and community access/notification endeavors. For example, the City of Cincinnati has invested in range modifications that include the installation of a firearms roof shielding on the shotgun or tactical side of the range grounds. This project provides a level of sound reduction in addition to enhancing range safety. Also, CPD has taken into consideration the effect of operational hours and range staff has limited firearm practice between the hours of 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Friday. The only exceptions are two evening dates annually, whereby SWAT completes their training by 7:30 p.m. and four Saturday dates annually that are utilized by Federal Agencies and the Evendale Police Department for their annual qualifications. More importantly, when there are scheduled evening and Saturday events, range staff contact local police jurisdictions and request that notifications be sent to residents. Last, during such times, the Range Master remains on site to answer all calls or complaints routed from the jurisdictions or the Hamilton County Communications Center.

FEASIBILITY

As this time, CPD and CFM have not explored potential locations inside the City of Cincinnati, Hamilton County or outside the I-275 loop. An outdoor range, requiring up to 30 acres, would be less expensive than an indoor range potentially accommodated on a site of 4 acres. If the site were to be inside the City of Cincinnati it would require public/neighborhood involvement under Planning Commission rules. Similarly to Police Districts 3 and 5, this engagement effects cost, timing and feasibility.

Also expected, any site outside the City of Cincinnati would face similar requirements from the municipality, township and county under consideration. It is fair to presume that a new outdoor range may only be feasible well outside the I-275 loop. An indoor range within the City of Cincinnati would be a non-tax generating property with zoning and permit issues impacting cost. Such factors will need further investigation along with a comprehensive assessment of CPD short- and long-term strategic goals.

SUMMARY

Currently over 49,000 hours of personnel training takes place annually on these 30 acres in Evendale. This area contains the target range, a dog training course, and multipurpose accommodations for an armory, ammunition storeroom, staff offices, classrooms and restrooms.

A facility built to match these amenities would cost between \$4.6M-\$9.7M, depending upon a rural versus more urban location and the subsequent amount of indoor versus outdoor space required. These cost estimates do not include land acquisition or overall site development; at this time no potential site(s) have been identified within the city limits or surrounding areas. If relocation were mandatory, a more detailed scope of requirements would be needed, inclusive of short- and long-term Police Department strategic goals for more accurate estimates of relocating the Police Target Range.