

November 3, 2021

To: Mayor and Members of City Council

202103066

From: Paula Boggs Muething, City Manager

Subject: Cincinnati Police Department Target Range Needs Assessment

---

### **Reference Document #202102162**

On June 22, 2021, the Law and Public Safety Committee referred the following for a report:

MOTION, submitted by Councilmember Kearney, WE MOVE for the City Administration to request information from the Cincinnati Police Department to identify the needs of the Cincinnati Police Department regarding the use of a new gun firing range. WE FURTHER MOVE, that the Administration prepare a report on negotiations with the City of Evendale regarding the existing range and the feasibility, including all costs, of removing training from the current firing range to a new facility.

The following report summarizes the Cincinnati Police Department's (CPD) present use of the target range currently located in Lincoln Heights, and the needs required of any potential new site. CPD needs, at minimum, 30 acres with 2 outdoor specialized firing ranges, canine training space, and a multipurpose facility large enough to house an armory, ammunition storage, offices, classroom, restrooms, and locker rooms. The estimated costs to design and construct such a facility ranges between \$18M to \$30.5M depending on market costs.

### **BACKGROUND**

On August 5, 2020, the Administration provided Council with a report (Doc. No. 202001174) that detailed cost estimate options of construction of a similar outdoor target range, an indoor range, range rental, or noise reduction at the current facility. Each of these options are detailed within the following reports:

- Item No. 201901806, referred on December 9, 2019, summarized present use, spatial needs, and the feasibility of relocating the Cincinnati Police Target Range. Estimates for the construction of a similar outdoor target range were approximately \$4.6M and \$9.7M for an indoor range. These costs did not include the cost for land acquisition, nor did it include the costs for SWAT snipers, driving pad, or K9 training areas.
- Item No. 202000347, referred on March 3, 2020, regarding a Request for Information (RFI) that was released January 27, 2021, on the feasibility of reducing noise at the current facility. Of 627 general construction and acoustics companies notified, only one (1) formal response was received. The response, as provided by Megan Construction, included nine (9) options for

consideration and were attached in the report to council. 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.

## **CPD TARGET RANGE NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

The Cincinnati Police Department's (CPD) target range falls under the responsibility of the CPD Training Section. The term "target range" does not accurately reflect the myriad of training activities currently housed at CPD's target range facility located on approximately 30 acres at 10139 Spartan Drive in Evendale, Ohio<sup>1</sup>. Cumulatively, law enforcement personnel receive approximately 44,000 hours of training over 300 days per year at CPD's target range.

In 1946, after functioning for at least three years as the Wright Aeronautical Ex-Servicemen's Club Inc., the property was transferred to the City of Cincinnati<sup>2</sup>. Seventy years ago, firearms training was the only training occurring on that site. As policing has evolved, so too have the training needs. At this time, only 56% of the training conducted at the CPD target range is firearm related.

Currently, the target range is utilized to conduct the following training needs for CPD: Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT), Civil Disturbance Response Team (CDRT), Recruit firearms instruction, Canine Unit, Clandestine Lab Enforcement Team, Firearms Familiarization, and Annual Firearms Qualifications for CPD, multiple federal law enforcement agencies, and the Evendale Police Department.

### **Firearms Training and Training Facility Needs:**

Traditional firearms training in the form of pistol, patrol rifle, and SWAT sniper training is accompanied by other lethal, less lethal, and non-lethal munitions such as rifles more suitable for indoor use, tear gas, 40mm foam round, and beanbag shotguns.

All sworn CPD members must be initially trained and tested and receive annual training and certification in pistol and shotgun. Many also receive voluntary training, testing, and certification in use of the patrol rifle. SWAT certified officers receive additional training in the pistol and shotgun as well as other firearms. In all, firearms training of CPD and local and federal partners take up approximately 22,500 hours, or 56 percent of all activities at the target range.

The Ohio Patrol Officer Training Academy (OPOTA) mandates officers to shoot from varying distances between 3 feet to 50 feet from the target. Shotgun training is conducted from approximately 10 feet to 50 feet. Rifle training for patrol officers extends out to 100 yards from the target. Pistol and shotgun training is conducted on a one-acre range which is divided into an uncovered side with fifteen shooting positions and a gravel side with seven additional shooting positions. The uncovered side of the range has a concrete floor, 50-foot-tall by 18-inch-thick concrete walls and a steel bullet trap system. The "gravel side" of the pistol range has a baffled ballistic resistant roof system and provides for shooting of all calibers of firearms. It too has 18-inch-thick walls. While also used every day for pistol and shotgun training, it is on this side of the range that sniper training is conducted. Together, these parts of the range total one acre. Combining the distance required for rifle qualifications adds

---

<sup>1</sup> Hamilton County Auditor Record. <https://wedge1.hcauditor.org/view/re/6110050000890/2020/summary>

<sup>2</sup> Hamilton County Real Estate Card 611-50-8, in archives of Cincinnati Police Museum

an additional half acre of necessary space. SWAT snipers are required by the State of Ohio to qualify from 300 yards. That adds over one additional acre of space.

CPD Firearm Training requires a minimum of 30 shooting stalls each with bullet traps, baffling, target carriers, target backstops, an 18'x30' overhead, berm, and sound proofing.

**Civil Disturbance Response Team:**

The CDRT is a unit of over 40 officers who function as the first officers to respond to civil unrest. The team is trained in the “mobile field force” concept and can conduct both crowd management as well as crowd control depending on the circumstances. Part of the training is the ability for the officers to work in and around tear gas. To conduct this type of training, a large open space is needed to allow the officers to conduct crowd control formations as well as providing enough space for the tear gas to dissipate before affecting others.

Bicycle mounted officers are an integral part of CDRT training. There must be a concrete or asphalt space separate from the common parking lot for them to train in crowd control tactics. This 8-hour training occurs twice a month.

**SWAT:**

SWAT officers are trained in all the weapons platforms as other officers plus additional weapons only used by SWAT. SWAT snipers must train frequently. OPOTA mandates all Ohio snipers using a large caliber rifle, qualify from 300 yards. Considering a buffer around the snipers, and suitable backstop behind the target, this dictates a target range that is at least 350 yards long on at least one axis.

**Driver’s Training:**

OPOTA requires police recruit driver’s training be conducted on a site that is measured and certified to meet OPOTA standards. This course includes pursuit driving as well as many other skills, and, as a result, requires a large, permanent site (so the courses can be permanently marked after being certified). Because driver’s training must be held with multiple events one leading to the next, at least five acres is needed.

**Canine Training:**

The current target range facility is also the training site for most Hamilton County law enforcement agencies canine team’s weekly trainings and annual certifications. This portion of the property houses an outdoor canine training facility with agility obstacles. These obstacles are integral to training canines to go through windows, over, under and around obstacles and to trust their footing on elevated surfaces. Canine training in Hamilton County is one of the most integrated regional approaches to training in the state. Most canine teams in Hamilton County are trained to the same high standards at this facility. This training includes space to conduct suspect tracks through short grass, tall weeds, and wooded terrain. This terrain also provides the necessary space away from firearms instruction to train canines to conduct search sniffs of vehicles for the odor of unlawful narcotics and to find, in varying terrain, those articles discarded by suspects fleeing from a crime scene. Between the obstacle course that covers approximately two acres and the area search and tracking training, canine training covers approximately five acres.

**ESTIMATED COSTS:**

The design and construction of a facility to meet CPD's needs is estimated to cost between \$19.3M and \$30.5M. These estimates were compiled by City Purchasing with support by City Facilities, a cross departmental team of engineers, and through comparable bids:

<b>Description</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>Min \$</b>	<b>Max \$</b>
30 PP Shooting Facility	15000 sq ft.	\$ 4,125,000.00	\$ 4,875,000.00
Stalls			
Bullet Traps			
Baffling	75 ft	\$ 6,118.50	\$ 10,938.00
Target Carriers			
Target Backstops	30 backstops	\$ 5,400.00	\$ 12,000.00
Sound Proofing		\$ 25,000.00	\$ 2,200,000.00
18 ft x 30 ft Overhead Structure		\$ 3,812.00	\$ 5,155.50
Berm	6452 Yards	\$ 4,839.00	\$ 22,582.00
Ammunition Lock	4000 sq. ft.	\$ 1,100,000.00	\$ 1,300,000.00
Offices, Training Rooms, Bathroom	4000 sq. ft	\$ 1,100,000.00	\$ 1,300,000.00
Parking Lot/ Driveway	30,000 sq ft.	\$ 600,000.00	\$ 900,000.00
Driving Training Course	5 acres	\$ 4,356,000.00	\$ 7,623,000.00
Dog Training Course	2-5acre	\$ 2,000,000.00	\$ 5,000,000.00
Fence	2-5 acre		
Wire	2-5 acre	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 11,000.00
Composite	2-5 acre	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 84,000.00
Long Distance Outdoor Range	4acre	\$ 4,000,000.00	\$ 4,400,000.00
A/E - Design		\$ 650,000.00	\$ 900,000.00
Permits, inspections, Testing etc..		\$ 150,000.00	\$ 300,000.00
Construction Management		\$ 300,000.00	\$ 400,000.00
OHP/ Fees/ Other		\$ 300,000.00	\$ 600,000.00
Contingency		\$ 500,000.00	\$ 600,000.00
<b>Total</b>		\$ 19,257,369.50	\$ 30,543,675.50

**CONCLUSION**

In December 2019, CPD worked with the City's Facilities Management personnel to determine the needs of a future target range site. After carefully analyzing the multitude of uses of the current target range, it was determined that any future site must be on at least 30 acres of land and contain 2 outdoor specialized firing ranges with berms, sound reduction, and safety technology; a canine training space for agility course and article and suspect searches; and a multipurpose facility large enough to house an armory, ammunition storage, offices, classroom, and restrooms/locker rooms; and, a driver's training pad for on-going driver's training as required by OPOTA. Design and construction for such a facility is estimated at \$19.3M to \$30.5M, not including the cost for land acquisition.

cc: Eliot Isaac, Police Chief