

EARLYSVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY



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County of Albemarle
County Executive's Office

INCORPORATED 1966

September 10, 2004

Mr. Tom Foley
County of Albemarle
401 McIntire Road
Charlottesville, VA 22902

RE: Proposed Northside Station

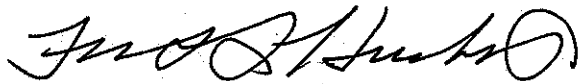
Dear Mr. Foley,

As you are aware, the Earlysville Volunteer Fire Company (EVFC) has been working with the Fire/Rescue office for the past 18 months regarding the proposed northside station. Our goal is that Earlysville Fire will provide the volunteer base for this new station as we continue to operate out of our current station on Rae's Ford Road in Earlysville. While we realize, that operating out of two stations will be a real challenge and a first for Albemarle County, we feel that doing so will maintain a strong volunteer component of a combination volunteer/career system. We have discussed several scenarios to improve response times in the Route 29 north corridor and have concluded that northern Albemarle County would be better served by the addition of a station in the vicinity of Seminole Trail and Airport Road (the proposed station 12) as well as our existing station (station 4). While we have been making excellent progress in our planning over the last several months there is one issue that we feel must be addressed before we go much further.

The disposition of the career staff currently assigned to our current station once the new station opens continues to be an unresolved issue. About a year ago, a draft planning document pertaining to Station 12, prepared by the Fire/Rescue Office, stated "it is proposed that the current career staff assigned to Station 4 will be transferred to Station 12". Our position has been, and still is, that this should not occur. However, we feel that our position is not held by all at the County Office Building. Albemarle County made a commitment to Earlysville Fire and the citizens of the Earlysville to provide career personnel to supplement our staff in 1998. The reasons for this commitment are still very valid today, and will be after Station 12 opens. Strong arguments for maintaining our existing station have been made by the Fire/Rescue Office and have been accepted by our membership. Transferring the career staff from our station, would affectively shut us down during the week days, invalidating those original arguments. We remain open to new staffing models that can capitalize on the fact that Stations 4 and 12 will be much closer to each other than any other stations in the County.

We are requesting a commitment from the Board of Supervisors that career personnel will remain in our current station, per the agreement that we have in place, and that all personnel will not be removed and transferred to the new station. Given the aggressive timetable that we are working with, a timely response will be appreciated. We will be happy to meet with you to more fully discuss this matter if you feel the need prior to meeting with the Board of Supervisors. I also want to take the opportunity to update the Board of Supervisors on our work toward the volunteer staffing for Station 12. Please advise me possible dates for this item to come before the Board of Supervisors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Fred L. Huckstep".

Frederick L. Huckstep, Chief

cc: Dan Eggleston
Eric Strucko