

MINUTES JOINT PS&T/PLUM MEETING AND SPECIAL BOARD MEETING/TOWN HALL

1. Welcome and Roll Call

Quorum achieved 7:19. Susan S., Erik, Robert, Marlena, Scott, Nic, Margaret, Don, David and Jim present (10).

2. Short video of recent fire near Lake Hollywood Park/Hollywood Sign area

Video not able to be shown due to technical difficulties.

3. Report by Los Angeles Fire Department- current deployment patterns

Chief Butler from Battalion 5 spoke as to flexibility new station 82 provides, with space to expand. Same resources there now as before. 82s fairly quick, regularly get to jobs faster than FS27. No major issues with getting trucks onto Hollywood Boulevard, when are work with LAPD Traffic. Can put reserve resources at old 82s. Will have training room.

LAFD hasn't done a thorough job of providing response time data. Working to implement Controller's audit. Task Force a new model for department as has researchers involved. Goal is to improve performance across LAFD, increase reliability. Also upgrading Fire Station Learning System (dispatch).

July 2011 an engine company was shut down at 35s for budget reasons. Has increased number of calls to 82s to assist. Send three fire companies for every fire call in area. Do training on brushfire, hillside issues for Battalion staff.

Richard M. asked about possibility of putting up additional signage, possibly flashing lights to warn people about station and make them aware not to park in front or block exits.

Some stations have control over traffic signal directly. Chief Butler said he would take back to management, talk to DOT.

4. Summary of previous discussions by PS&T/PLUM representatives

Erik and Jim gave comments on what their committees did. George Abrams stated that Prop. F was violated by having some areas of 82s' see an increase in response times.

5. PLUM:

Motion- Recommend that the HUNC Board call for a federal grand jury to investigate the funding and operations of the Los Angeles Fire Department, with particular attention to 1) emergency response data inaccuracies, 2) the downsizing of Fire Station 82 and any resulting increase in potential risk in the high-fire area, and 3) adequacy of the overall resources allocated to the Department, especially in light of the recent \$200 million in budget cuts; HUNC further calls for all similar information from appropriate authorities regarding this matter be made available to HUNC without delay.

Richard suggested that LAFD Task Force and other efforts to ask for information politely will result in nothing. Federal Grand Jury is looking at Housing Authority currently, investigating possible criminal activity. Have power to issue indictments. Can do either civil or criminal prosecutions.

Susan stated that she thinks State would have precedence.

Nicole said could have County Grand Jury without the DA.

Richard responded that without subpoena power won't work.

Scott mentioned PLUM hearing and testimony of firefighters who spoke in favor of sending a message about response times. Felt that a federal body would be more independent

than a local one. Eliminated criminal from consideration (though the motion does not technically rule this out).

Jim- Hollywood Community Plan does not discuss what fire resources are needed. LAFD officials have not been consistent about describing the challenges to FS82, telling us different anecdotal information each meeting. Should start with call for federal grand jury and then allow system to work its way down to state or local area if necessary.

6. Public Comment

Fran R.- Measure F said would improve response times overall. [Actual language- "building new facilities will help to reduce emergency 9-1-1 response times"]

7. Discussion of Fire Station 82 history

Erik- Part of a City facilities bond, passed in 2000 to build 19 replacement fire stations including a new FS82, plus a new helicopter facility. Budget of \$379M or about \$20M per. [City wound up saving enough on bond to build 21 stations]

FS82 now estimated to cost \$28M by time remodel is done on old site, which will be used mainly for training space. This makes FS82 the most expensive project from the Bond.

Florentine Gardens was given serious consideration after the first choice, Hollywood + Garfield, fell apart over size issues. Determination by City was that 3 acres plus unwilling seller would make it too costly, take too long to accomplish, etc.

City had bought Van Ness site early on. Was too small also, so had to pass a citywide Charter amendment (Measure J) to allow LAFD to construct a three-story station on smaller lot.

FS82 may be the ONLY new station in the City that has been allowed to keep its old home even as it got a new facility.

8. Staffing/deployment of resources at FS82, recent budget reductions

Erik- it's not clear that misrepresentation of response time is criminal. Could very well be that errors were innocent. Need to see results of Task Force and Controller's report to know.

Nicole- it's not an easy thing to ask for a federal investigation, but we should investigate possible wrongdoing. Worried that federal grand jury will be too focused on finding a crime. Supports citizens looking at. Need a "soup to nuts" look at LAFD. Shouldn't do nothing.

9. Available data for LAFD, FS82 response timing, fatality statistics

Erik- frustrating that department can't provide information about FS82, even though we have asked for it repeatedly.

Jim- hard to trust LAFD on actual response times when they have a different message for HUNC every time they send a representative. Hollywood Boulevard was a problem, now it apparently isn't.

10*. Controller's audit of LAFD response times, follow-up reports

Nicole- Need to better explain what the problem is at LAFD that we are trying to fix thru this action. Not been laid out.

11. Article and documents provided by Richard McNaughton

"HUNC Vice President and chairman of the Safety Committee was instrumental in having HUNC approve the down-sized FS 82." *Erik – this never happened. While the Board did accept the City's decision, this is not at all the same thing. Their only vote on issue was to support Florentine Gardens.*

12. Definition of federal grand jury, likely consequences of indictment

Erik- LAFD brass will be the target of any investigation, let's not kid ourselves. CMs Garcetti and LaBonge were not ones who proposed the budget (Mayor) or determined what LAFD response statistics were (department leadership did).

Susan- why does this have to be a federal investigation? The research she did suggested that federal inquiries were focused on returning criminal indictments. Would prefer a state or local investigation.

Richard- previous crimes would be fair game for an investigation, as well as more recent improprieties.

George A.- Reducing size of FS82 would be part of focus.

13. Implications of finding cities criminally liable for budget cuts

Erik- Is not illegal to cut public safety services. City delayed making cuts to LAFD for years while other services suffered, now they are being asked to share the pain. Is not very surprising that some rank and file firefighters are not happy about reductions to services and associated loss of overtime.

14. Possible new signage/fixes to improve traffic flow near FS82

Discussed while LAFD representative was present (#3).

15. Other issues

Richard- Could have used CRA funds to pay for LAFD services.

Erik- No, that's not true. An urban myth.

16. Possible vote on Agenda Item 5, other possible actions

Original motion from PLUM passed 5-4-1 as written. There was a request to amend the motion beforehand to remove some language that was denied by the committee chair.

*** NOTE- Agenda items 11-17 have been renumbered 10-16 as item #10 was skipped on original agenda.**