



# EL CERRITO-KENSINGTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

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**DATE:** January 7, 2021

**TO:** Bill Hansell: General Manager

**FROM:** Michael Pigoni: Fire Chief

**RE:** **Revision G Comments**

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Per your request after our meeting today regarding the Station remodel, I have updated my memo to you that was dated December 31, 2020. I have discussed the new layout represented in Revision G with the labor group as well as the management group to get more perspective views on the design. Below is a list of concerns, thoughts and wishes that were brought forward as well as ones of my own, many of which have already been shared.

- 1. Conference Room:** The Public Safety building currently has a joint use conference room that is approximately 285 sq. ft. Revision G has a joint meeting room that is technically within the PD side of the room and is only 220 sq. ft. While this is smaller than the existing room, it can be made to work, but would need confirmation that there is no security concern with PD in that the public/vendors/others would be entering this space. The importance of a dedicated conference/meeting room needs to be a high priority for potential large scale emergencies, shift meetings and/or training. There is also the concern that this shared room would be used as part time office space by non-sworn police staff or other CSD personnel. *Preference is still for a dedicated office for Fire on the first floor as well as a larger shared conference room accessed directly from the public area that is set up for training and to serve as a an EOC and/or DOC.*
- 2. Apparatus Bay:** Preference is to not lose the third apparatus bay. The spare bay provides room to reload hose packs, layout and inspect rescue equipment, work on projects, provide a training area for practicing with fire equipment, running positive pressure fans etc. without moving the apparatus outside. This space also provides area for growth if the District in the future wants to consider additional equipment to augment services. This could include a type 6 brush truck or a utility pickup, portable water tank trailer and pump with hose reels for pre-positioning during high fire danger, decontamination trailer, or an emergency equipment cache trailer with equipment similar to the CERT sheds that could be towed to neighborhoods in the event of a major event. *Preference is to leave hose/turnout racks where they are (which works fine) and look at modifying the work shop area to have the extractor towards the rear of the apparatus room.*
- 3. Kitchen:** It was pointed out that moving the kitchen to the current deck/patio area would create issues with using the outdoor barbeque grills that are located in the parking area just outside the kitchen window. This would require the firefighters to be moving back and forth between the kitchen and outside traversing the through the day room and stairs multiple times. Additionally, there appears to be a loss in storage area in the kitchen, mainly the pantry for each shift. *Due to the possible safety issue and disturbance to others, preference is to leave the kitchen in the current location with the revisions as laid out in Revision D.*
- 4. Bedrooms:** The bedroom layout permits two beds and a workstation/desk in each one. While normally only one person uses each bedroom at a time, during high fire danger (Red Flag) when the Department increases staffing, personnel are forced to share rooms. In retrospect of this current pandemic, it is evident that larger bedrooms would provide better isolation when additional personnel are required. An alternative to larger

rooms would be a 4<sup>th</sup> dorm that not only assists for additional staffing, but in looking to the future, it would provide the option for the District to consider a 4<sup>th</sup> firefighter and provided the NFPA 1720 required staffing of 4 personnel on an engine. A fourth firefighter, commonly referred to as 4/0 staffing would provide for safer and more efficient operations at emergency scenes. *Preference is for a total of 4 dorms with two beds in each that provide a minimum of 6' between the beds and a work station in each one.*

5. **Captain's Office:** The Captain's office is shown in what is currently the workout/electrical room. Three of the four walls have considerable amount of equipment including electrical panels, conduit, computer servers, phone system, etc. I would question if this infrastructure can be relocated easily. Additionally, attention needs to be made for insulating the walls to provide privacy when meeting/counseling personnel or other work that requires discretion. *Preference would be to increase the size of this room to allow to meet with the whole crew at one time and/or provide a dedicated larger office on the first floor.*
6. **Crew Office Space:** The work area/office off the day room for the engineer and firefighter is viewed as not optimal due to the potential distraction if someone else is in the day room. At a minimum, there should be a door installed and additional insulation with possible 6" walls to isolate outside distractions. *Preference would be to relocate the work spaces away from the day room.*
7. **Workout Room:** The relocated area for the workout room to the current kitchen area is not acceptable due to the size. This area is no larger than the current area being utilized (when including the area in the day room that is also used) and would actually have less floor space considering the walkway to access the parking lot cannot be used and must be kept clear. The other option discussed of using the current deck area is also not an acceptable location due to the noise distraction to the proposed Captains office and day room. This area is also smaller than currently being used when considering the area in the day room also being utilized for equipment. *Preference is to go back to Revision D design.*
8. **Radios:** While there is a location now for the dispatch printers by the doors to the apparatus on the first floor, there needs to be a location in the upstairs area to install the radios for both Richmond and Con Fire. The radios need to be located where they can be accessed easily. This will require something centrally located in the kitchen/dayroom area with countertop area for writing on next to them. Currently they are located adjacent to the kitchen on the counter under the historical cabinet and door to the stairwell. *Preference is to locate the radios on the second floor near the center workstation that is shown near the wheelchair lift for the upper day room.*
9. **Historical Display/Museum:** Revision G does not have any area designed for the historical items that are currently on display above the radio cabinet. History is extremely important in the Fire Service as are displaying items from years gone by. *Preference is to provide an adequate display cabinet in the day room area.*
10. **Restrooms:** I question the feasibility of only one restroom for PD and it is located on the first floor. There is no facility on the second floor. As currently designed, anyone in custody will need to be allowed to use the public restroom in the first floor hallway. This is a safety concern for Fire personnel and any public that is brought in. *Preference is that a secure restroom be provided for PD on the second floor to be more convenient for them and promote safety in the public areas.*
11. **Parking:** Parking behind the Station has always been a problem and was made even worse years ago when the emergency generator was installed and took up more spaces. Currently Fire has two spaces against the wall and then nose into the garbage can storage area. Every other day when there is shift change, it requires personnel to play musical chairs with the cars to switch out positions. Most days one or two oncoming firefighters will park in front of the Station which has and continues to generate complaints from citizens.

(unknown why) *Preference is to re-negotiate the contract with PD to provide one or two more parking spaces for Fire.*

**12. Ballistic Protection:** At this point, the location of the PD's armory is not indicated and assumed it would be back on the second floor if Revision G is followed, but once located, there remains the same concern as today for protection from an accidental discharge with ballistic reinforcement added to the walls and/or ceiling depending on final location.