

## Fact Sheet:

### Investing In Our Firefighters and In Community Safety

Concord Township's proposal for new fire stations is built around these primary needs: the safety of our citizens, faster response times, the safety of our firefighters and improving public service and access. Here are the facts – verifiable in the public record – on some of the most important needs and how we'll meet them.

#### How Public Safety Will Be Improved

- **Providing 21<sup>st</sup> century fire service.** Our stations were built in the mid-1960s, for a mid-1960s fire department. Today, Concord Fire responds to structure fires, vehicle fires, EMS calls, confined space rescues, collapse rescues, high angle rope rescues, swift water rescues, ice rescues and more. We need new stations to meet our mission today – and into the future.
- **Training 21<sup>st</sup> century firefighters.** We cannot currently give our firefighters the in-house training they need. The Training Tower at the new Station #1 will allow our firefighters to prepare for high-rise victim rescues, rope rescues, ladder operations, hose line deployments and other essential skills that we currently cannot train for locally.
- **Revvng up response times.** Seconds count in emergencies. Both new stations will have firefighters living and working on the same level as the rescue equipment – saving precious time.
- **Organizing lifesaving equipment.** Currently, we do not even have the space to store all our emergency response vehicles in our fire stations. An ambulance and our off-road rescue vehicle are stored elsewhere. The new stations will have all emergency response vehicles in the same buildings as the emergency responders, enabling faster response times.
- **Building a stronger safety net for emergencies.** The Station #1 multipurpose design room will serve as a back-up Emergency Operations Center for Concord Township. Both stations will have an automatic standby generator – currently lacking in Station 2 – which will help protect critical communication functions.

#### How Firefighter Safety Will Be Improved

- **Making a dangerous job a little less dangerous.** The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health says that firefighters face a 9 percent increase in cancer diagnoses and a 14 percent increase in cancer-related deaths, compared with the general population. Firefighters simply are exposed to more contaminants. Our current stations don't have sufficient air exchange and don't adequately keep contaminants away from living and office space. The new stations will have state-of-the-art ventilation and decontamination systems, and firefighting gear will be stored in areas with independent ventilation systems.
- **Fire-proofing our fire stations.** The new stations will have the fire detection, suppression and security systems that our outdated facilities lack.
- **Providing the space needed for important work.** Training equipment will be stored on-site at the new stations, meaning our firefighters will be more readily available for emergencies while also getting in crucial training. The stations will have on-site fitness equipment, helping our firefighters stay in shape.

## How Public Service and Access Will Be Improved

- **Opening our stations to the public.** Station #1 will have ample space for public education, improved visitor entrances, access for people with disabilities and restrooms to accommodate large groups.
- **Putting all our fire services together.** The Fire Prevention Bureau, currently in a different location, will be in Fire Station #1 with the fire department administration, improving our services and making it more convenient for residents who need to meet with fire officials.
- **Securing sensitive records.** To safeguard sensitive medical information, we'll be able to store documents and building plans that cannot be destroyed or digitized in a protected atmosphere (a secured and fire suppression system-protected environment) that meets all standards of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).

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