



DATE ISSUED: Nov. 28, 2006

REPORT NO: 06-175

ATTENTION: Council President and City Council
Docket of November 28, 2006

REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

SUBJECT: University Community Plan Amendment for Public Safety Related Facilities

REFERENCE: Report To The Planning Commission
Report No. PC-06-227

REQUESTED ACTION: Adopt an amendment to the Progress Guide and General Plan and the University Community Plan which adds language identifying the need to provide additional public safety related facilities in the community to adequately serve existing and future development.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the Resolution.

SUMMARY: The University Community is currently served by one fire station (Fire Station 35) located on Eastgate Mall between Genesee Avenue and Regents Road. The national standard for coverage within a station's district is a maximum of nine square miles and four square miles for densely populated areas. Station 35 currently covers fourteen square miles. The national standard for emergency response is to have a first responder on scene within five minutes, ninety percent of the time. Station 35 currently meets this goal only thirty four percent of the time. In order to meet the national standard for coverage and response in the University Community, the Fire-Rescue department is recommending a minimum of two additional stations for the community.

Generally, funding for new fire stations may come from several sources. However, in order to provide funding for two new stations in the community through the North University City Public Facilities Financing Plan and Facilities Benefit Assessment and/or the South University City Public Facilities Summary, the need for those facilities is required to be identified in the community plan. Therefore, the proposed plan amendment would revise language in the Public Facilities Element of the community plan to state that public safety related facilities (e.g. police, fire, and emergency medical response) should be provided to assure levels of service standards are attained for existing development and as development occurs. Although the Fire-Rescue Department currently recommends at least two additional fire stations for the community, the proposed amendment would allow for more if necessary and any needed police and/or emergency medical response facilities. Specific locations for new stations are not known at this time; however, siting of new facilities would include community input and be carefully reviewed for environmental, land use and aesthetic impacts.

Approval of the community plan amendment would complete the first step in the process to locate two additional fire stations in the University Community as recommended by the Fire-

Rescue Department to assure levels of service standards are attained for existing development and as development occurs.

FISCAL CONSIDERATIONS: All costs associated with the processing of this plan amendment are paid through General Fund monies budgeted for the City Planning and Community Investment Department as directed by City Council Resolution No. R-301307.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL and/or COMMITTEE ACTION: This community plan amendment was initiated by City Council on March 21, 2006 by Resolution No. R-301307.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND PUBLIC OUTREACH EFFORTS: At the November 8, 2005 meeting of the University Community Planning Group (UCPG), a subcommittee was established to work with the community, the fire department and city staff to discuss fire protection issues such as potential station locations, response times and capacity. On December 13, 2005, the UCPG voted to recommend initiation of a community plan amendment by a vote of 14-0-0 to allow for additional fire stations in the community. City Planning & Community Investment Department staff presented draft language for the proposed amendment at the UCPG meetings of May 16, 2006 and June 13, 2006. At their June meeting, the UCPG voted 11-0-0 to recommend approval of the proposed amendment to the University Community Plan. The Fire Protection subcommittee of UCPG will continue to work with all parties involved to see that the needs of the community are met.

KEY STAKEHOLDERS AND PROJECTED IMPACTS: No property owners, business owners or developers have a direct financial interest. However, approval of the proposed plan amendment would benefit property and business owners, developers as well as residents in the University Community by completing the first step to locate additional fire stations in the community. Once locations and funding have been identified new stations can be constructed, which would in turn provide better coverage for the community and lower emergency response times.

William Anderson, FAICP, Director
City Planning & Community Investment

James T. Waring, Deputy Chief
Land Use & Economic Development

Attachments:

- Attachment A: Draft Resolution
- Attachment B: City Council Resolution No. R-301307
- Attachment C: Report to the Planning Commission, Report No. PC-06-227
- Attachment D: Planning Commission Resolution No. 4122-PC