

# Rabbit Creek Community Council

P.O. Box 112354, Anchorage, AK 99511-2354

October 17, 2012

TO: Anchorage Assembly

Re: Proposal to Reconstruct FS 9 on Site 19 (Rabbit Creek Park)

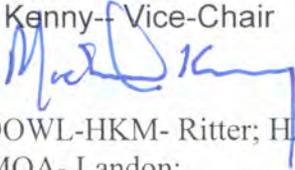
Rabbit Creek Community Council supports the concept of extending the zone for a four-minute response time by the Anchorage Fire Department. However, the council has unanswered concerns about the proposed relocation to site 19 in Rabbit Creek Park.

1. Building FS 9 on Parcel #19 would take de facto park land without compensation, and this is a poor precedent. Although site 19 is not designated or dedicated, it is indisputable that it has been posted as a park, has served as a park, and has been counted as a park in the Anchorage Bowl parks plan and other park land inventories, for many years.
2. Questions of competition among fire stations for operating funds have not been answered. RCCC is particularly concerned whether site 19 would become a justification to reduce or close FS #10. FS #10 provides the fastest coverage to a large part of our council area.
3. The Mayor's proposed funding cuts for fire stations require new models to re-assess the response times from site 19. RCCC heard testimony from AFD staff that a station at site 19 without FS 10 would inflate the response time to a number of homes such as the Golden View Drive area. RCCC also heard that if FS 15 and 10 are closed, FS 9 could cover the voids better from its current location than from site 19. Specifically, re-evaluate potential sites that might provide a better response time under reduced station operations, including reductions or closures of FS 15 and 10.
4. If site 19 is chosen for a new fire station, the conditions for approval must include both dedication and designation of the remaining acreage in the Rabbit Creek Park as parkland, with PLI-p zoning.
5. RCCC heard DOWL's testimony that the 1.5 acre footprint of recent fire stations (7 and 15) is possible for FS 9, and this would include a 30 foot perimeter buffer. If site 19 is chosen, RCCC supports the goal of the most compact functional layout possible to minimize acreage taken from the park.
6. RCCC supports neighborhood protection and has heard the strong opposition from neighbors of site 19, including: the uncompensated reduction in park land (land identified and managed as a park by the MOA, and used as park land for over 20 years); the effects of fire station operations on the residential neighborhood; potential increased traffic congestion at the elementary school; possible upgrades needed to the intersection and to Lake Otis Road which is built without shoulders.

7. RCCC has heard additional information about the other 20 rejected sites, and requests further evaluation. Specifically, re-evaluate site development of site 18. Re-evaluate whether sale of FS 9 for profit could offset site development costs.
8. RCCC will initiate research on the land status of all presumed MOA parkland in our Council area and request that MOA designate and dedicate the parks if it has not done so.

Signed,

Mike Kenny-- Vice-Chair



Cc: DOWL-HKM- Ritter; HALO- Weddleton; Seafarer Loop Neighborhood;  
MOA- Landon;