



**KFPD BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
January 13, 2021
ITEM 7.1**



**KPPCSD BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
January 14, 2021
ITEM 8**

**JOINT STATUS REPORT ON PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING RENOVATION AND CONSIDERATION TO INITIATE
A JOINT REVIEW OF THE CURRENT CONCEPTUAL DESIGN BY MEMBERS OF THE KPPCSD AND
KENSINGTON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT BOARDS**

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATION

Receive a status report on the Public Safety Building renovation project, and consider directing staff to schedule a public meeting consisting of two members from each of the KPPCSD and KFPD boards to review the project.

BACKGROUND

A renovation or replacement of the KFPD Public Safety Building (PSB) has been a subject of consideration since 2016 when a seismic evaluation by Biggs Cardosa Associates Inc., Structural Engineers, determined that *"Because the building does not meet the latest seismic code requirements and due to its proximity to major earthquake faults there is the possibility that significant structural damage may occur with loss of life during a seismic event."* The report, dated 02/16/2016, recommended that *"the existing building be replaced or fully evaluated based on the requirements of the 2013 California Building Code by a registered Structural Engineer to determine the structural framing elements that are deficient"* and that *"a replaced structure would not only perform better during an earthquake but address many of the operational issues of the existing station."* It should be noted that the current 2019 CA building code is now two cycles beyond the 2013 version and has increased requirements for building life safety.

Subsequent studies of the PSB evaluated numerous options to remedy the safety and operational deficiencies of the building. In January, 2017, the architectural firm of RossDrulisCusenbery (RDC) presented a "Feasibility and Master Plan Final Report" which fully assessed the existing building, site, programmatic space requirements, civil infrastructure (BKF Engineers), structural (IDA Structural Engineers), and cost estimates (Mack5 Consultants) for the following:

- 1) Renovation (6K gsf at \$652psf = \$4M),
- 2) Replacement on site (14K gsf at \$579psf = \$8M), or
- 3) Building at a new location (19K gsf at \$595psf = \$11.5M).

In November, 2017, a geophysical investigation report by Advanced Geological Services on the existing PSB site stated that "No definitive fault indications were observed..." but suggested that "...there may be a geologic discontinuity...along the retaining wall between the back of the firehouse parking lot and the neighbor's yard." A further report by Rockridge Geotechnical in January 2018 stated that, "The location

of the suspected fault and resulting setbacks are expected to significantly limit the potential of extending the footprint of the proposed building to the eastern property line.”

At a KFPD board meeting on 09/11/2019, RDC presented a summary of the thirteen schemes studied to date which referenced a “Conceptual Retrofit Design” that included an explanation of the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Zone Act. The Act “...prohibits the location of developments and structures for human occupancy across the traces of active faults” and limits alterations or additions of existing buildings on such sites to 50% of the value of the structure. RDC’s presentation detailed all the areas of both the Fire Department and the Police Department which are deficient and do not meet standards and practice codes for contemporary levels of service. The RDC recommendation, based on solving both the seismic vulnerability and the inadequate facilities for both departments, was to renovate the PSB for use by the Fire Department and to find safe and appropriate space for the Police Department elsewhere.

Before proceeding with this recommendation, the KPPCSD Board pursued the idea of having RDC develop a design that would house both the Fire and Police departments in the PSB, and the Board worked with the Fire District for permission to engage RDC to explore this possibility.

At its meeting of January 23, 2020, the KPPCSD Board, with the concurrence of the KFPD, approved an agreement with RDC in the amount of \$15,673 for their firm to develop a design for the renovation of the Public Safety Building that could accommodate space needs of both KFPD and the KPPCSD Police Department. It was understood that there was no guarantee that this work by RDC would result in a feasible design, but the Board majority felt that it was worthwhile to fund this additional work.

During the course of the work by RDC, several technical design issues arose that required additional analysis and meeting(s) with the Contra Costa County Building Official. These issues involved accessibility and seismic requirements for the renovated Public Safety Building, and were outside of the original scope of work contracted for by KPPCSD. To continue this architectural analysis, the KPPCSD provided additional funding for an Extra Service Request (ESR 001), with the cost of that ESR split evenly with the Fire District. The cost to each agency was approximately \$13,000.

On September 17, 2020, KPPCSD and KFPD staff received from the architect the draft conceptual plans for a new “Option D” for the renovated Public Safety Building. This conceptual plan incorporated an elevator and a wheelchair lift, and redesigned space on the ground floor to improve the layout of the Kensington Police Department based on prior comments from the department. The plan also incorporated an altered layout for the apparatus bays and support spaces. This conceptual design enclosed the outdoor deck area, and included modifications to meet accessibility codes.

Neither the Fire District nor the Police Department staff found design “Option D” to be completely acceptable, and both KPPCSD staff and Fire District staff participated in discussions with the architect to review their specific concerns associated with the conceptual design. At the November 11th, 2020, regular board meeting of the KFPD, the directors approved closing out RDC’s ESR007, effectively pausing any further work in lieu of the concerns expressed.

CURRENT STATUS OF BUILDING DESIGN

Following several additional discussions independent of RDC in December 2020 that included the KPPCSD General Manager Bill Lindsay, KFPD General Manager Bill Hansell, Police Chief Walt Schuld, and Fire Chief Michael Pigoni, Mr. Hansell made revisions to the prior conceptual Option D plan (attached)

that attempted to address concerns by each of the chiefs. Both Chief Pigoni and Chief Schuld have prepared written comments reflecting the difficulties in developing a conceptual design that meets the facility requirements of both departments. These comments are attached to this report. The managers and chiefs briefly discussed alternatives that would solve the space constraints of renovating the existing building, but, at this juncture, staff believes that it is important to receive a policy review by board members from each of the agencies so that there is an understanding at the governance level of what facility needs can and cannot be addressed through renovation of the Public Safety Building within the existing building footprint. Specifically, the general managers believe that the boards should authorize staff to schedule a joint committee consisting of two members of each board to review the status of the project in detail. (It may be noted that each board previously appointed a committee that could serve this purpose.)

While the agenda, format and objectives need to be more fully developed, the concept for a joint committee or board meeting is as follows:

- The meeting would be a public meeting;
- No decisions would be made at the meeting; it would involve a workshop-style presentation and discussion by members of both Boards to gather information needed for future, separate decision-making by each of the respective Boards;
- The meeting would be jointly facilitated by the general managers from both agencies;
- The workshop would include a presentation by KFPD General Manager Hansell, and police and fire staff, that would provide information on issues that are common to both agencies:
 - Overview and history of the project;
 - Review of initial design objectives;
 - Current status, including conceptual designs;
 - Feasibility of pursuing joint occupancy in the PSB;
 - Alternatives to joint occupancy in the PSB (if applicable);
 - Recommended process for closure on a final conceptual design;
 - Preliminary project schedule; and
 - Project budget estimate.

The above is meant only to be a tentative listing of topics to be addressed.

RECOMMENDATION

Receive a status report on the Public Safety Building renovation project, and consider directing staff to schedule a public meeting consisting of two members from each of the KPPCSD and KFPD boards to review the project.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no significant additional fiscal impact associated with the recommended action described in this report.

ATTACHMENTS

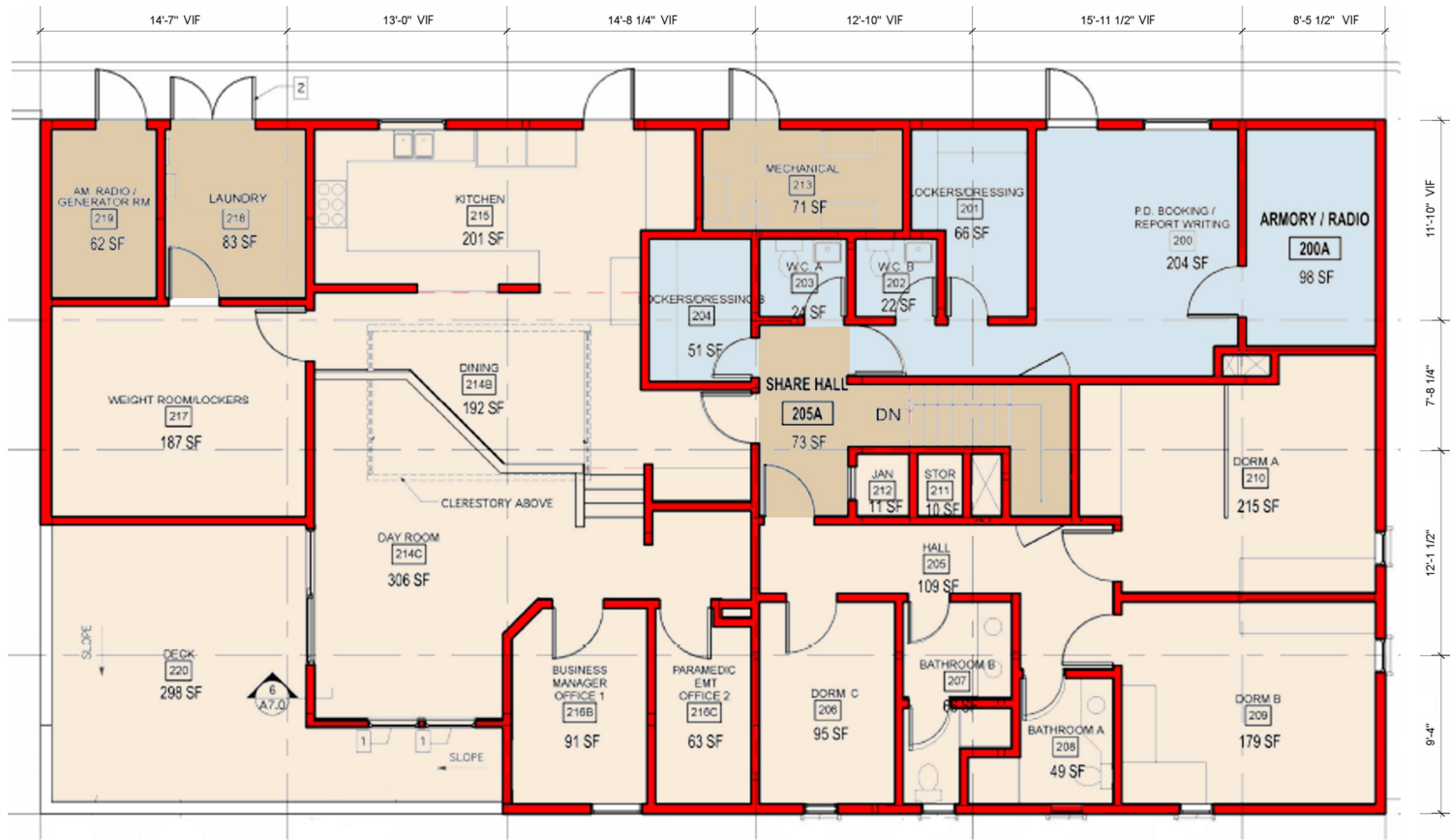
- Current analysis of the renovated Kensington Public Safety Building as prepared by KFPD General Manager Bill Hansell
- Memorandum from KFPD Fire Chief Pigoni Regarding Public Safety Building Design
- Memorandum from KPPCSD Police Chief Walter Schuld Regarding Public Safety Building Design

SUBMITTED BY:

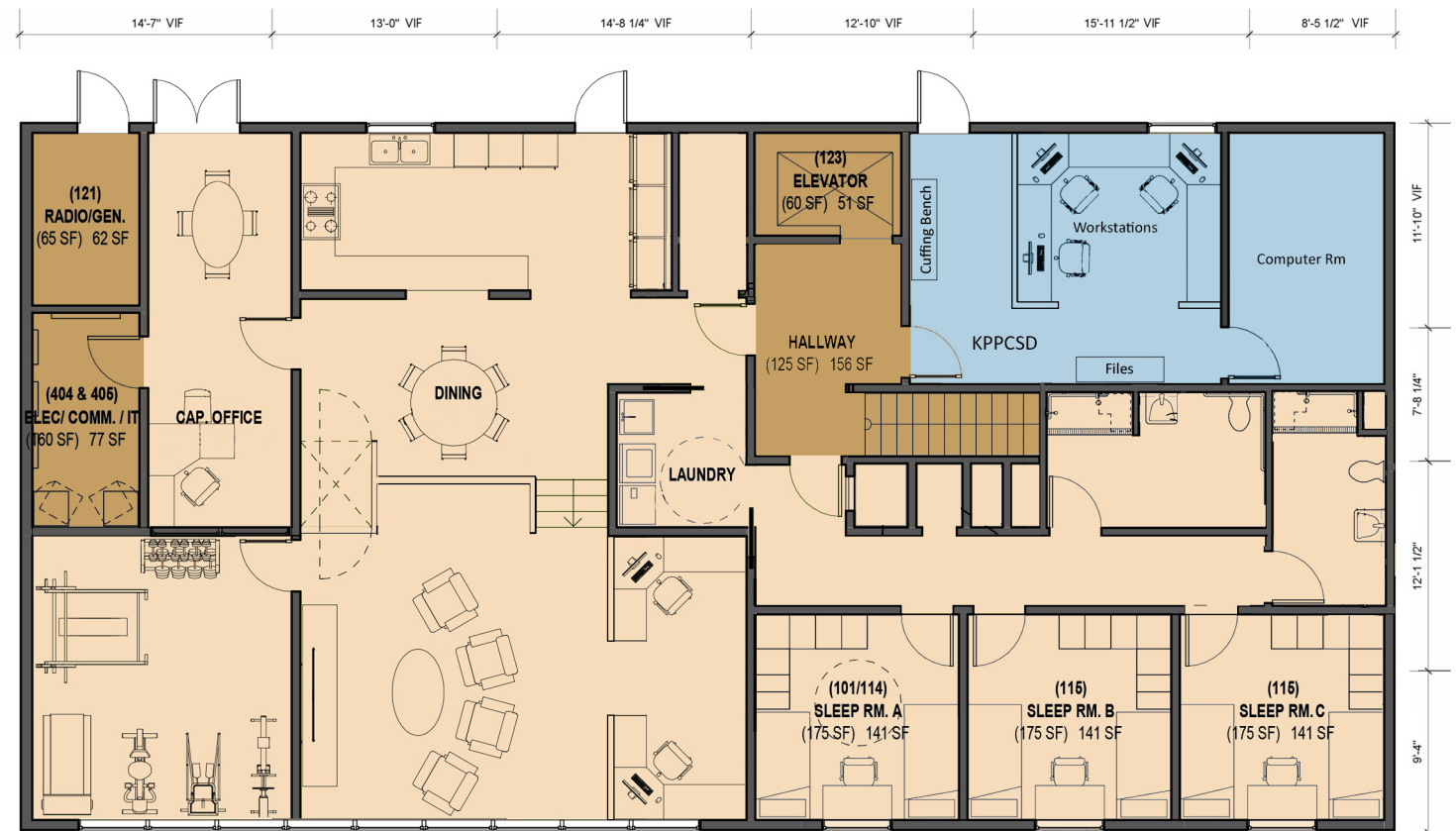
Bill Lindsay
Interim General Manager, KPPCSD

And

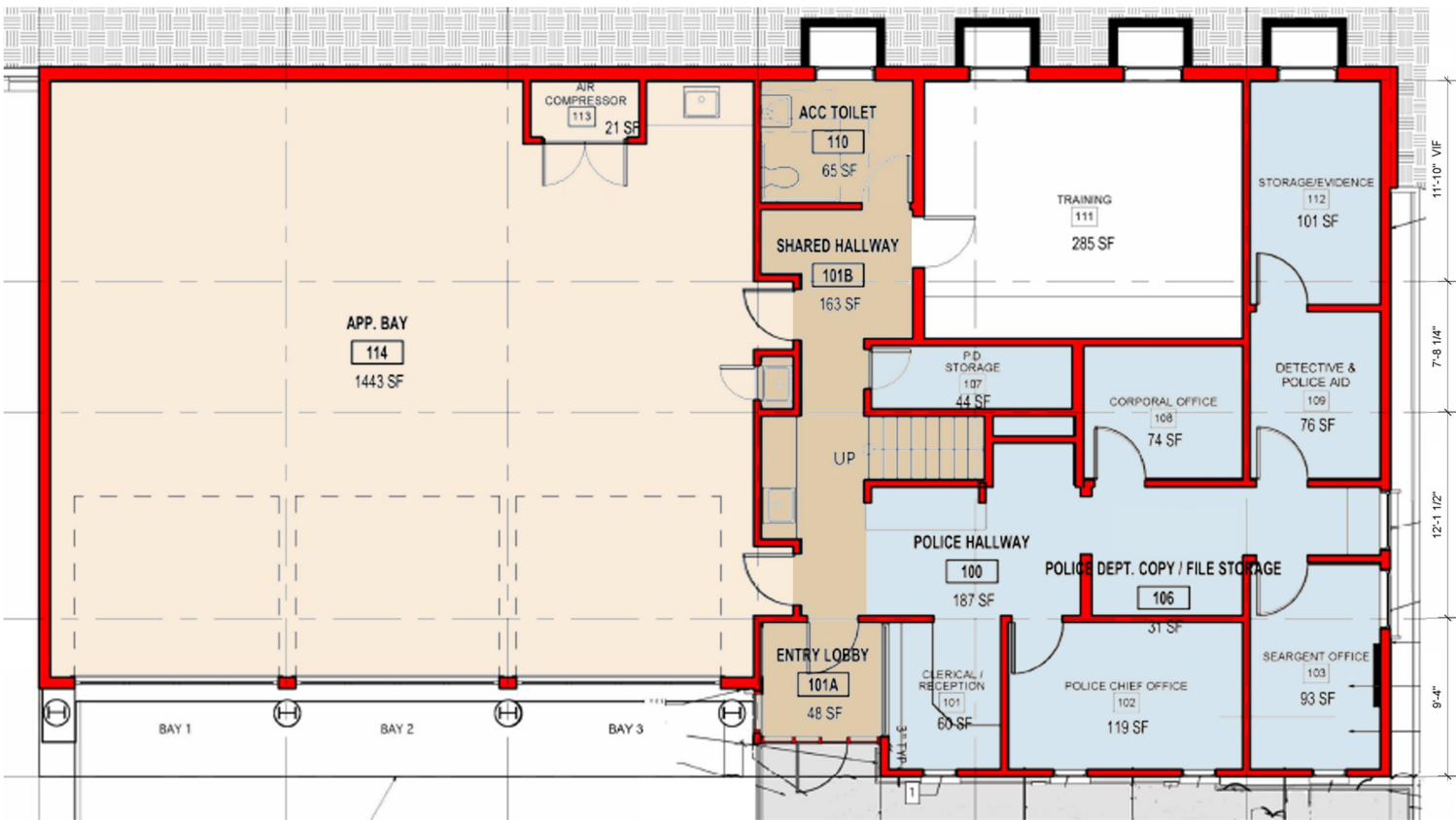
Bill Hansell
General Manager, KFPD



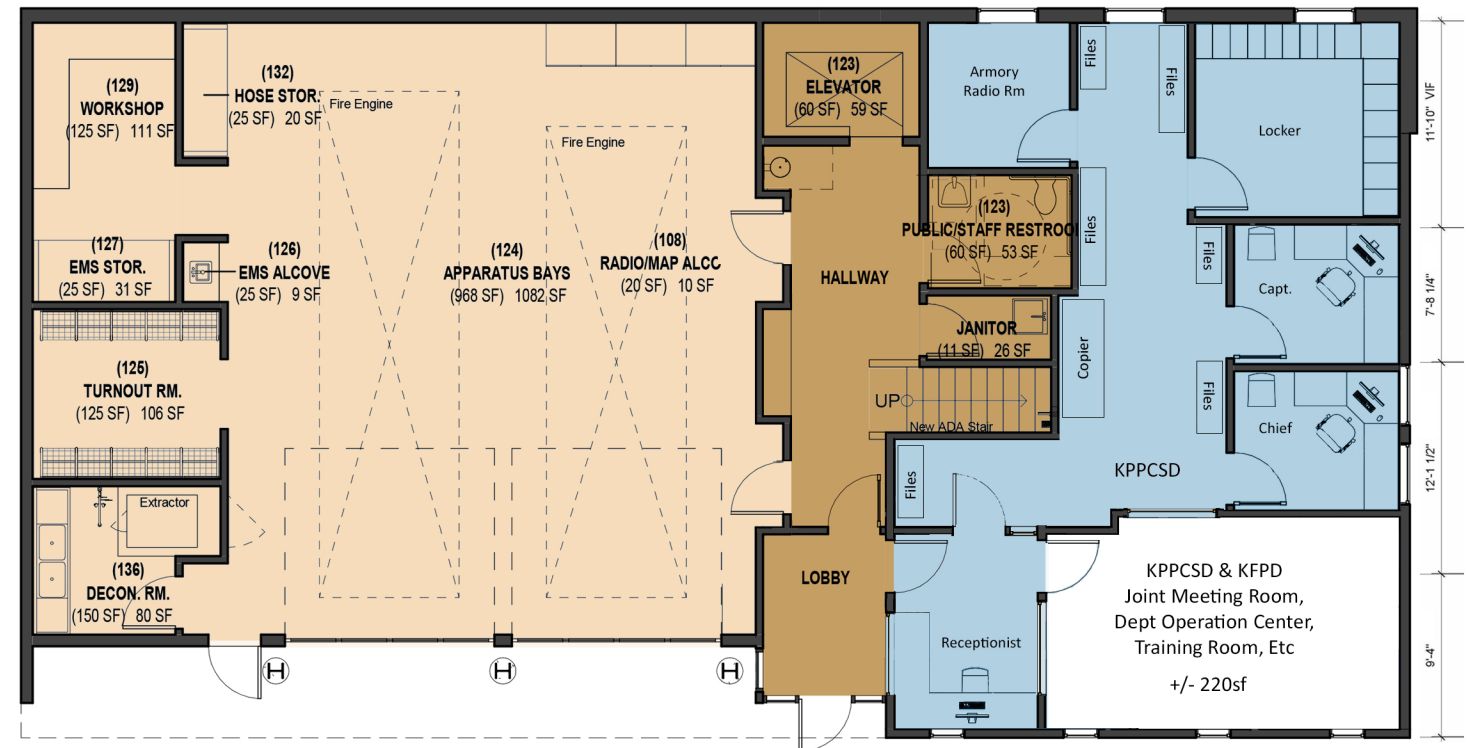
Existing: 2nd Fl Plan



Proposed: 2nd Fl Plan



Existing: 1st Fl Plan



Proposed: 1st Fl Plan

- KPPCSD
- KFPD
- Circulation/Bldg Mech

Scheme "G" Note:
 KPPCSD Area Calcs
 1st Fl = +/- 650 sf gross*
 2nd Fl = +/- 378 sf gross
 Total = +/- 1,025 sf gross**
 * May require 2nd restrm.
 **Not incl. Joint Mtg Room





EL CERRITO-KENSINGTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

10900 San Pablo Avenue • El Cerrito • CA • 94530

(510) 215-4450 • FAX (510) 232-4917

www.el-cerrito.org



DATE: January 7, 2021

TO: Bill Hansell: General Manager

FROM: Michael Pigoni: Fire Chief

RE: Revision G Comments

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 4th 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 4th 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.

KENSINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT
217 Arlington Ave
Kensington, CA 94707-1401
(510) 526-4141



Walt Schuld
Interim Chief of Police

DATE: January 7, 2021
TO: Bill Lindsay, Interim General Manager
FROM: Walt Schuld, Interim Chief of Police
SUBJECT: Public Safety Building

I have reviewed the latest proposal "Option G" for sharing space with the Fire Department in the Public Safety Building. There are concerns about the amount of space available to provide for a professional and efficient police department.

Our existing space consists of 1222 sq. ft. which is constricted but if needed we can make it work. Option G shows our gross square footage to be 1,025 sq. ft. We lose 200 sq. ft. of usable space. In addition, with the insertion of a mandatory computer room¹ of at least 110 sq. ft. we lose a total of 310 sq. ft. from an already confined space. The following are the deficiencies that we will have with Option G:

1. We are losing more space rather than gaining needed space.
2. We lose the office for the sergeants to do paperwork or conduct counseling sessions.
3. We lose dedicated workstations for the Police Services Assistant to run stats, purchase supplies, arrange for training, keep records, fill out reports for DOJ, etc.
4. We lose a dedicated workstation for the Detective and Traffic/Community Services officer. Both are on the computer for all our law enforcement software and responding to the community by email, phone and zoom meetings.
5. Nine employees will have to share three workstations.
6. We lose our evidence storage including temporary storage.
7. No room for growth for Reserves or Volunteers. Volunteers would have to be offsite.
8. No sink, small refrigerator, or cupboards. Officers will be required to keep non-perishable food items in their uniform lockers or eat out.
9. Live Scan machine will have to take the space of one of the file cabinets.
10. No separate locker room for females.
11. Only one public restroom (not very significant but we currently have a private restroom upstairs and a public restroom downstairs).

Some of the above deficient areas we can make do without but overall, I cannot recommend that the police department attempt to fit into a 1,025 sq. ft. space. The proposal actually deteriorates the conditions that is now available for the police department and certainly does not look toward future growth (volunteers, reserve officers, and cadets).

Walt Schuld
Interim Chief of Police

¹ Department of Justice requirement to have a secure computer room. We are currently out of compliance.