

January 10, 2023

Dear Kensington District Board Directors,

We advocate that a comprehensive cost-benefits/operations evaluation of possible locations for our police department be completed, jointly by both boards, before a vote is taken on a decision.

For many years, the KPOA urged the KPPCSD and KFPD to work together to find a solution to house the police department in the existing Public Safety Building (PSB). After several architectural designs were done, it appeared that at least none of them adequately addressed the operational concerns of the police chief and staff. We are impressed with departmental reforms by Chief Gancasz, and think it wise if the two boards evaluate and decide on a location solution that preserves and rewards that progress, and evaluates any effects on the fire department's operations. It is also clear to us that our police department needs to return from El Cerrito to Kensington, either in the PSB or elsewhere.

In sum, it seems logical that the two boards cooperatively conduct a joint, thorough analysis of location options, with best estimates of the short and long term costs of each option, also including effects on the two departments' operations in addition to district financial effects—before voting on a final departmental location solution. We have not seen any analysis that is nearly comprehensive. Separate board analyses will not be helpful. We think that only a joint analysis can provide a publicly acceptable answer.

Sincerely,

Kensington Property Association (KPOA)
Rob Firmin, President, and the KPOA Board of Directors