

Charge for the Fire Station No. 8 History and Legacy Working Group

Established by the County Manager on February 5, 2018

The Fire Station No. 8 History and Legacy (FS8HL) Working Group is established and charged by the County Manager to develop and recommend strategies to recognize, emphasize, and honor the history and legacy of the Hall's Hill/High View Park Volunteer Fire Department and Fire Station No. 8 to incorporate into the planning and design of the replacement fire station at 4845 Lee Highway.

Background

In support of the recommendations of the Fire Station No. 8 Task Force, the County Board voted in July 2016 to build a new four-bay station in the location of the existing station at 4845 Lee Highway. The County is now in the process of preparing to initiate the design process for a stand-alone permanent station, targeting to begin the design effort in the summer of 2018.

Fire Station No. 8 features a rich history, originating in 1918 when it was first established as an African American-operated volunteer fire station using a volunteer-purchased 60-gallon chemical tank to serve the Hall's Hill and High View Park neighborhoods. The creation of the volunteer station was followed in those early years by milestones including formal organization of the Hall's Hill Volunteer Fire Department (HHVFD) in 1925, opening of a first station on Lee Highway, and relocation to 2209 North Culpeper Street in 1934. African American firefighters at Hall's Hill were not paid by the County until 1951, years after other fire departments. The fire station developed into a de facto community center and thrived despite unequal treatment, funding, and segregation. Fire Station No. 8 at 4845 Lee Highway was integrated in 1963.

Given the rich history of Fire Station No. 8, there is a shared desire to determine how the history and cultural legacy of Fire Station No. 8 can be celebrated and included as part of the replacement of the new station. Thus, prior to initiating the design process, the County seeks community recommendations for strategies to recognize, emphasize, and honor the history and legacy of the Hall's Hill/High View Park Volunteer Fire Department and Fire Station No. 8 to incorporate into the design of the replacement fire station to be built at 4845 Lee Highway. The Public Facilities Review Committee (PFRC) process, to allow for broader community review of the fire station design, is anticipated to begin in 2019 following initial work on the preliminary design for the fire station.

Membership

The County Manager will appoint members to the FS8HL Working Group possessing knowledge about the history and legacy of the Hall's Hill/High View Park neighborhood, Hall's Hill/High View Park Volunteer Fire Department, Fire Station No. 8, as well as members with expertise in design and historic preservation who can offer knowledge and experience on practical solutions to support realization of the group's ideas.

The County Manager will appoint a chair and members to serve for the duration of the working group, anticipated to conclude with report submission by June 2018. The chair may choose to organize subcommittees from the members of the working group to address specific elements of the Charge (see below).

The Working Group will be supported by staff from Arlington County Community Planning, Housing and Development, the Department of Environmental Services Facilities Division, Arlington County Fire Department, and the Arlington Economic Development Cultural Affairs Division.

The list of Working Group members and staff resource team is provided in Attachment 1.

Study Area Description

The FS8HL study area (see Attachment 3) comprises the area to be used for construction of the permanent station. It is bound by N. Culpeper Street to the west, an auto repair shop at 4831 Lee Highway, and single-family homes on 2220 and 2226 N. Columbus Street to the east, the anticipated future parking lot for the permanent station to the north, and Lee Highway to the south. The 2217 Culpeper St. parcel is not part of the study and its future will be determined as a separate effort. While the design of the station has not yet commenced, a draft concept plan for the basic layout of the station has been developed for the selection of a design firm and may be used to inform recommendations (see Attachment 2).

Charge

The FS8HL Working Group will develop a report providing recommendations for how the history and legacy of the Hall's Hill/High View Park Volunteer Fire Department and Fire Station No. 8 should be celebrated as part of the new fire station to be built at 4845 Lee Highway. Recommendations may address the following elements:

- The exterior of the station and site (i.e. distinctive architectural features, signage, creative use of color and materials, lighting, landscaping, paving, public art, possibilities for temporary and permanent interpretative heritage exhibits);
- The interior public, non-operational spaces* (i.e. distinctive architectural features, possibilities for temporary and permanent interpretative heritage exhibits, public art, other design elements or features); and
- Opportunities for reuse of existing building materials if appropriate to honor history and legacy of the station.

Note: All recommendations will allow Arlington County Fire Department (ACFD operational) requirements to be met and fall within the Key Parameters laid out below.

Staff will have the following responsibilities:

- Provide logistics for meetings (e.g. public meeting notices, room reservations/set up, meeting notes)
- Provide communication updates to the broader community (e.g. webpage, Projects and Planning emails)
- Provide technical knowledge in development of guiding principles, draft and final recommendations as appropriate, which could include suggestions, best practices, or cost information to implement the working group's recommendations in areas including heritage interpretation or cultural/commemorative interpretation, public art, landscaping, paving design, signage, lighting, and architectural features

*A community room is not currently within the scope of the project. Should an opportunity be found by the design firm to be hired by the County in 2018 to accommodate one in the design and budget, recommendations for design, public art, or exhibits are requested to address this space as well.

Specific Tasks/Milestones

Specific tasks or milestones for the FS8HL Working Group to undertake are as follows:

- Review of project parameters, the station history, and features of the current fire station;
- Development of consensus-based guiding principles;
- Development of consensus-based draft and refined recommendations for each of the elements listed on the Charge above. Recommendations should provide various options for each element with justifications for each. *If no consensus can be reached, report should provide limited number (2-3) of additional options for each element supported by members with justifications for each;*
- Development of a draft and final report; and
- Report submission to the County Manager.

Timeline

The FS8HL Working Group will commence its work in March 2018. The FS8HL will meet on a regular basis for three months with a report to be submitted to the County Manager no later than May 31, 2018. This is to provide adequate time for the County to review and consider how the recommendations may be incorporated and funded in the design of the permanent station.

A proposed meeting schedule is as follows:

Early March	Review of charge, project parameters, station history, and existing conditions
Mid-March	Development of guiding principles
Early April	Development of recommendations
Mid-April	Development of recommendations
Early May	Review of report
Mid-May	Review of report
End of May	Vote and submission of recommendations

Key Parameters

The following parameters should guide the Working Group's efforts:

Fire Station Design Requirements

The Fire Station 8 building, located at 4845 Lee Highway, is aging and undersized and will be replaced with a new better suited facility to meet Fire and EMS program needs. The replacement station shall meet current fire department standards including four apparatus bays to accommodate equipment requirements and gender-neutral accommodations for staff. The new fire station will be a two-story building with a total area of approximately 15,000 square feet and a footprint of about 10,000 square feet. The station will provide drive-through bays for the apparatus and adequate staff parking. The County purchased three residential lots adjacent to the fire station to enlarge the site and provide adequate space for a temporary fire station for use during demolition and construction phases and a fuel island and parking for the permanent station.

Budget

Reserved funding has not been identified to address these recommendations at this time. Additional funding may need to be sought for recommendations that cannot be absorbed by anticipated project budget. Any articulation of costs and benefits that could be provided with each recommendation would be valuable in the evaluation of the report, and the staff resource team is available to assist in this effort.

Value as History and Cultural Community Resource

The recommendations should provide teaching opportunities so that all residents and visitors can understand, reflect upon, and respect the history and legacy of Fire Station No. 8. This may include but not be limited to the following:

- the formation and development of the station;
- the station’s role within the Hall’s Hill and High View Park neighborhoods;
- recognition of important individuals who served at the firehouse; and
- the symbolic nature of the fire station in the context of segregation and integration in Arlington County and the Commonwealth of Virginia

Attachments

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| Attachment 1 – | Working Group membership |
| Attachment 2 - | Detailed timeline of recent actions associated with the rebuilding of Fire Station No. 8 leading up to appointment of the Fire Station No. 8 History and Legacy Working Group, including acquisition of additional parcels for a temporary station immediately north of the existing permanent station |
| Attachment 3 - | FS8HL Legacy Working Group Study Area |
| Attachment 4 – | Aerial map of parcels purchased for temporary station |

Attachment 1: FS8HL Working Group Composition and Staff Resource Team

Working Group Composition
Noah Simon, Chair (Fire Station 8 Task Force)
Community Resources on History of Hall’s Hill/High View Park neighborhood, Hall’s Hill/High View Park Volunteer Fire Department, Fire Station No. 8
Representative from Langston Brown Civic Association
Representative from APS (history teacher)
Representative from EPAC
Representative from HALRB
Representative from Civic Federation
Representative from Public Facilities Review Committee
Representative from Lee Highway Alliance
Representative from Public Art Committee

Staff Resource Team	
Name	Affiliation
June Locker	DES Facilities, Staff Project Contact (jlocker@arlingtonva.us)
Kellie Brown	CPHD Comprehensive Planning
Michelle Isabelle-Stark	AED Cultural Affairs
Justin Falango, Brett Wallace	CPHD Urban Design and Research (UDR)
John Liebertz	CPHD Historic Preservation
Joseph Reshetar	ACFD

Attachment 2: Timeline of Recent Events Associated with the Rebuilding of Fire Station No. 8

September 2015: The County Board appointed the Fire Station No. 8 Task Force and charged the group with reviewing siting options for a replacement station. The Task Force held several meetings and ultimately recommended building a new four-bay station in the location of the existing station at 4845 Lee Highway.

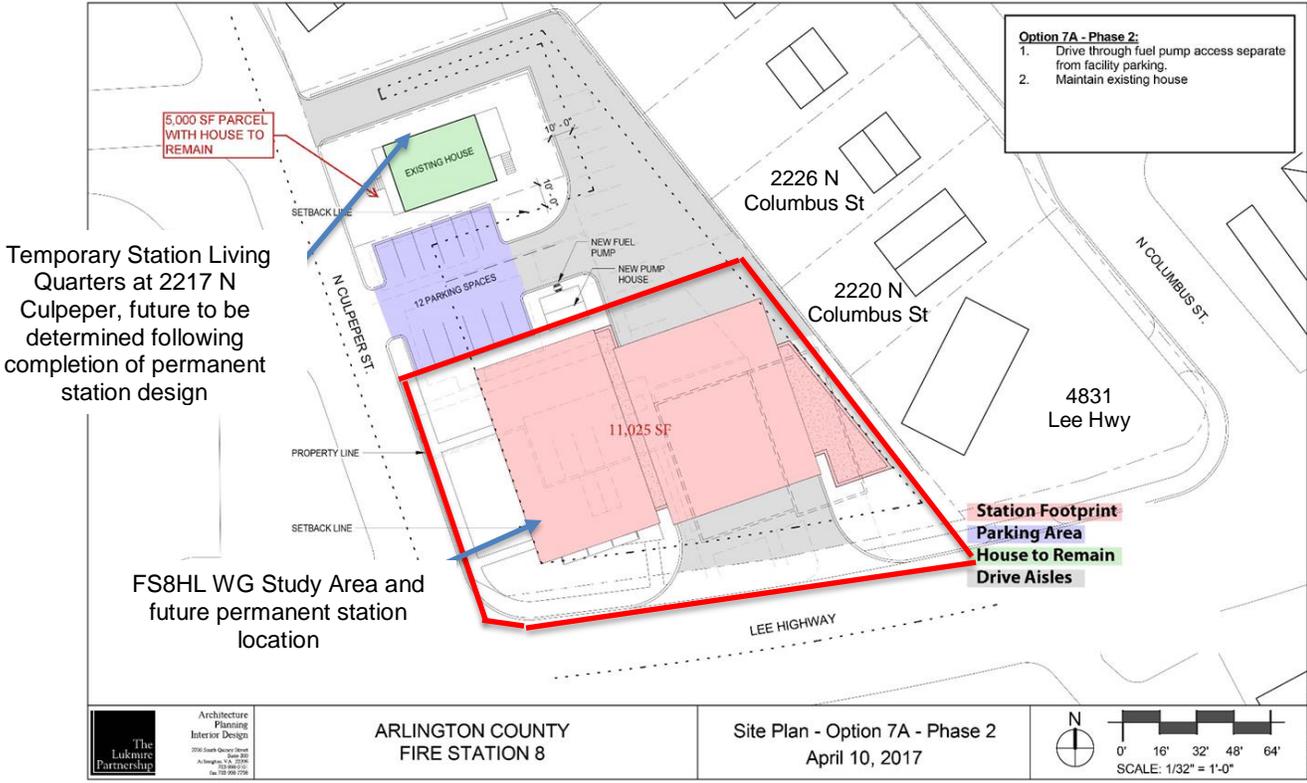
July 2016: At its meeting on July 19, 2016, as part of the adoption of the Fiscal Year 2017-2026 Capital Improvement Plan, the County Board accepted the Task Force recommendation and voted to build a new Fire Station No. 8 at its current location.

December 2016 and January 2017: The County Manager recommended and the County Board approved the acquisition of three parcels for the purpose of using them as the temporary location for Fire Station No. 8. (See Attachment 4) The parcels, located at 2211, 2215, and 2217 N. Culpeper Street are immediately adjacent to the existing station, thus keeping the station in the same general area and affording minimal disruption in fire operations. Further, combining the acquired parcels with the existing fire station site will offer efficiencies and cost savings in construction of the temporary and permanent station. The temporary location is expected to include temporary engine bay structure on the 2211 and 2215 parcels and living quarters would be located in the existing 2217 N. Culpepper building.

September 2017: Staff provided an update on the fire station project during a County Board work session, and the Board directed staff to proceed with design and construction of a stand-alone fire station.

December 2017: The County Board approved a General Land Use Plan amendment and rezoning to allow for construction of temporary station to be located on parcels adjacent to the site of the permanent station purchased for this use at 2211, 2215, and 2217 N Culpeper Street. The County Manager will provide guidance for repurposing the portions of the site not used for the permanent station prior to completion of the permanent station.

Attachment 3: Study Area



Attachment 4: Parcels Purchased for Temporary Station



Existing Condition Showing Location of Fire Station No. 8 and Three Houses Purchased for Temporary Station