

BRIEFING PAPER ON PROPOSED
REPLACEMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES FACILITY

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PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY FIRE/EMS STATION #1

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I. THE TEAM

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II. INTRODUCTION & PURPOSE

This briefing summarizes three years of design and feasibility research by the Hyattsville Volunteer Fire Department on replacing the existing fire station at 6200 Belcrest Road in Hyattsville, Maryland.

The design and feasibility study was conducted in two phases: Background research and development of program requirements followed by development of building options. Site boundaries and topographic information was gathered by RDA Associates of Upper Marlboro, Maryland. Proposed Building Design Program Requirements were developed and prepared by members of the Hyattsville Volunteer Fire Department's building committee, with assistance from the architect.

Schematic design studies and cost estimates of an addition and alterations to the existing building were developed consistent with the building area program requirements. Further schematic designs, with cost estimates, were developed and prepared by the architect illustrating replacement of the existing building with a new state-of-the-art emergency services facility that will service the community of Hyattsville and surrounding region.

The briefing will identify the opportunities and options for development of a new emergency services facility on the existing site.

Several factors play a significant role in justifying the immediate need for replacement of the existing fire station:

- * Potential population increase and proposed high density construction as outlined in the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission Prince George's Plaza Proposed Transit District Development Plan.

- * Expansion of Hyattsville Volunteer Fire Department's first alarm and primary response area following the consolidation of neighboring fire stations in Mount Rainier, Brentwood and Cottage City.

- * Increase in emergency medical, fire and rescue responses based on expanded first alarm area, population growth, increased traffic and new construction.

- * Significant increase and expected continued rise in volunteer membership at the HVFD.

- * The age, usefulness and life expectancy of the existing building has been reached. There is insufficient room for daily administrative and emergency operations.

- * Deficiencies in architectural, mechanical/electrical systems and circulation, as well as non-ADA compliance make the current fire station unsafe and a major hindrance on day-to-day operations of the Hyattsville Volunteer Fire Department.

The proposed facility must accommodate the community's short and long term needs for quality fire, rescue and emergency medical services.

III. DEPARTMENT / FACILITY OVERVIEW

1. The Department

The Hyattsville Volunteer Fire Department Inc., Fire/EMS Station #1 in Prince George's County, Maryland, serves a primary response area of 50 square miles, with a first-due area of nearly 3 square miles centered around the City of Hyattsville, Town of University Park and the University Hills community. This first due area is expected to expand to about 4 square miles in the year 2000 when the Brentwood, Mount Rainier and Cottage City fire stations merge to a new facility on U.S. Route 1 at 38th Avenue. [See Attachment 3 - Map of First Alarm Area and Neighboring Fire Department Consolidation]

In 1997, the Hyattsville Volunteer Fire Department responded to 3,806 emergency incidents in both Prince George's and Montgomery counties. Response totals were up from 3,546 in 1996. Of these incidents, about half are fire/rescue emergencies and the other half emergency medical responses. About 70 percent of the calls were handled by 74 volunteer firefighters and emergency medical providers who logged thousands of hours of emergency service.

The immediate area is suburban but is rapidly growing and developing into a dense urban neighborhood, with considerable growth planned under a proposed plan by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

Located at the intersection of Queens Chapel, Belcrest and Queensbury Roads, the existing fire station is situated well to serve its mission of providing emergency services to the community as has been evidenced by the Department's long history of commitment to volunteer service.

The Hyattsville Volunteer Fire Department is a recognized and important civic asset in this community.

The Department operates in an existing building of masonry and steel construction originally built in 1958 as a sub-station to the then-main Farragut Street firehouse. It was intended only as an emergency apparatus storage facility. When the Farragut Street station closed in 1969, the Belcrest Road site became the main firehouse for the community of Hyattsville. In 1988, the station was expanded to include an additional apparatus bay for a 100-foot aerial truck as well as expanded office space and lounge.

A private, non-profit corporation, the Hyattsville Volunteer Fire Department owns and maintains the property and building in addition to managing emergency operations and the delivery of emergency services in accordance with county and state regulations and laws, as well as General Orders established by the Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department. There are about 50 active volunteer members of the Department who respond to calls 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Additionally, 14 active members of the Department are students at the University of Maryland, Montgomery College or other educational institutions and live at the firehouse full-time, responding to the community's emergencies while in college. The volunteers are supplemented by eleven career firefighters, at least one of which is normally on duty at all times.

2. History of the Department

The Hyattsville Volunteer Fire Department was founded in 1888. With deep pride and enthusiasm, and an extraordinary commitment to volunteer service, the Department has operated continuously for 110 years.

Over that time, the Department has responded to hundreds of thousands of emergency calls for fire, rescue and emergency medical service to the residents of Hyattsville and the surrounding region. During this time, three volunteer firefighters made the ultimate sacrifice and gave their lives in the performance of that volunteer service to their community. In addition to emergency operations, the Hyattsville Volunteer Fire Department has given countless time to helping the community in other ways, including major fire prevention outreach programs, special events and other means of support.

There are many examples of ways the Department has given to the community in the last few years. In 1997, more than 3,000 citizens attended the Department's Fire Prevention Open House, including 1,000 children who completed a fire safety course. That same year the Department kicked off a multi-year program to check for all smoke detector in residences within the primary response area. In 1996, the Department raised \$100,000 in a boot drive for Carlie Hogarth, a young Hyattsville girl in need of a liver transplant, to supplement a \$25,000 contribution by the Department towards the COTA for Carlie fund. The Department also sponsors a monthly Citizen CPR training program at the firehouse.

All of the Department's major programs and events are developed, organized and staffed by volunteers.

III. DEPARTMENT/FACILITY OVERVIEW (Con't)

3. Existing Emergency Apparatus In-Service To The Community

The Hyattsville Volunteer Fire Department has purchased all of its existing emergency apparatus, saving taxpayers almost \$1.7 million. Those units include: Truck 1 — a 1996 Pierce Lance 100-foot aerial tiller truck; Engine 11 and 12 — 1988 and 1990 Pierce Arrow 1250gpm pumpers; Ambulance 18 — a 1996 Ford Lifeline basic life support ambulance; Rescue Squad/Metro Support Unit 1 — a 1993 Pierce Lance Heavy Duty Rescue Squad that also serves as one of only two mass transportation/mass casualty response units in Suburban Maryland; and four Chief Officer/Support vehicles.

Loans on several of our emergency vehicles are still outstanding [*See Attachment 2 - Apparatus Payment and Replacement Schedule*]: Including 1998 payments: \$142,500 remains owed on a five-year loan for the basic life support ambulance, \$624,000 is owed on the ladder truck on a seven-year loan and \$219,000 is owed on the rescue squad concluding a 7-year loan. The Department's capital replacement program anticipates the need to replace two pumpers at a cost of at least \$225,000 each and possibly add a second ambulance at a cost of at least \$110,000 in the coming years [*See Attachment 2*].

4. Basic Site Data

The existing fire station site is located at 6200 Belcrest Road and is owned by the Hyattsville Volunteer Fire Department Inc. Record references are liber 5305 @ folio 126, Parcel C: Addition Prince George's Plaza, plat book WWW-34 @ plat 23, new street map 11 (grid B-2), tax map 42 (grid A-3). The site is 40,250 SF or .93 acres. The zoning is R-5 and allows for a fire station. The maximum lot coverage is 60%. The total parking required is only eleven spaces, although 20 spaces are currently provided [*See "Site Plan" in Attachment 1*].

Because of strict zoning enforcements, such as maximum site coverage, building restrictions lines, maximum disturbed area requirements, and height limitations, the actual "buildable area" is very limited. These restrictions make the construction of an addition or the construction of a new facility and accommodating the proposed required building area program a significant architectural challenge.

IV. FIRE STATION TIMELINE



Farragut Street Firehouse in 1960. This was the former main fire station of the Hyattsville Vol. Fire Dept. It was closed in 1969

Construction of the Belcrest Road firehouse in 1958. The station was originally intended only as a sub-station to the Farragut Street station



Above, the Belcrest Road firehouse in 1984 prior to addition of a new apparatus bay to house the ladder truck in 1988, right



The firehouse today is no longer capable of accommodating the community's short and long term needs for quality fire, rescue and emergency medical services

V. NEED FOR A NEW FACILITY

1. Population Increase & Proposed High Density Building Construction

Increased population and existing/proposed construction of new buildings presents the Department with a challenge to meet the expected significant increase in fire, rescue and emergency medical service demand.

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission staff is recommending up to 8.9 million square feet in commercial development and up to 4,300 additional high rise apartment units for the area surrounding the Prince George's Plaza Metrorail station. The 300-acre area, called the Prince George's Plaza Transit Development Overlay Zone (TDOZ) [*See Attachment 3c - Transit District Overlay Zone Map*] includes Prince George's Plaza and the commercial office area between Toledo and Belcrest Roads and East West Highway (Maryland Route 410). It also includes many of the current high-rise apartments and office buildings surrounding Prince George's Plaza, the Kiplinger Printing facility south of East West Highway, the old Fair Lanes bowling alley site at Editors Park Drive and the soon-to-be developed shopping center at the southeast corner of Belcrest Road and East West Highway. Its western border is the Northwest Branch.

The plan calls for a maximum of 1.625 million square feet of retail space, 6.615 million square feet of office/research and development space and 660,000 square feet of "ancillary retail" space. The underlying zoning would be changed to M-X-T, which allows office, retail and high rise residential. The roads under this plan would be at or near capacity level. There would be more traffic, with 2,115 more trips than at the present time in the morning and 2,516 more trips in the evening in the TDOZ. Road improvements and additional turning lanes and traffic lights will be added in the TDOZ.

2. Expansion of First Alarm and Primary Response Area

In about the year 2000, three neighboring fire departments will be combined into a new facility at Rhode Island Avenue (U.S. Route 1) at 38th Avenue. Construction of the new fire station for the Mount Rainier, Brentwood and Cottage City Volunteer Fire Departments is expected to begin in the summer of 1998. The most significant impact of this move will be an expanded primary response area for the Hyattsville Volunteer Fire Department.

Presently, the southern end of the Hyattsville Volunteer Fire Department's primary response area ends along Queens Chapel Road at Ager Road. [*See Attachment 3a - Primary Response Area and Neighboring Fire Station Consolidation Map*] The "primary response area" is the area where the Hyattsville Volunteer Fire Department is the first due fire, rescue and EMS service to a specific location.

With the impending move of the Mount Rainier fire station farther east, the Hyattsville Volunteer Fire Department's primary response area will likely extend south to Eastern Avenue, the border of Washington, D.C. Hundreds of apartment units and at least two shopping centers will be added to our primary response area: The Queens-Chillum Shopping Center at Queens Chapel Road and Chillum Road and the Shoppers Food Warehouse shopping center on Chillum Road. The move of the Brentwood Volunteer Fire Department will also extend our primary response area to the southeast, expanding it along the area of Hamilton Street and 38th Avenue.

As a result of consolidation, our first-alarm response area may also likely increase. [*See Attachment 3b - First Alarm Response Area*] The "first-alarm" response area includes any location where the Hyattsville Volunteer Fire Department would be due on the initial alarm of a fire or rescue, including structure fires, gas leaks, automatic fire alarms and vehicle accidents. This area includes locations in both Prince George's and Montgomery counties.

Additionally, the initial alarm area for our Metro Support/Mass Casualty Unit encompasses all of Prince George's County north of U.S. Route 50.

3. Increase in Emergency Fire, Rescue and Emergency Medical Responses

As described above, the undoubted result of the population and construction growth, combined with the consolidation of the three local fire companies, will be a significant increase in calls for fire, rescue and emergency medical services for the Hyattsville Volunteer Fire Department. While it is impossible to gauge the exact figures on increased response, the Department's Fire Marshal's office estimates calls could rise as much as 25% alone following the move of the three fire stations before factoring in the increased population, structures and traffic in the area if the TDOZ plan is implemented. It is not unlikely that the Hyattsville Volunteer Fire Department's calls for service could rise more than 50-60% over the next 10 years.

V. NEED FOR A NEW FACILITY (Con't)

4. Significant Increase In Volunteer Membership

Over the past six to seven years, the Hyattsville Volunteer Fire Department has experienced a significant increase in volunteer membership. In 1991, an average of six volunteer fire and emergency medical providers was on duty at any given time. Only one fire suppression unit and the ambulance was able to respond at any given time. Now, on a typical weeknight today, more than 15 volunteers are on duty, with up to 25 or 30 at times, enabling simultaneous response of virtually all emergency services. There is no longer enough room for these personnel to live, train and work adequately in the current station. In addition to providing increased space, the construction of the new firehouse will likely increase volunteer strength. Other fire departments in the county, such as Glenn Dale and Laurel, have seen marked increases in volunteer membership after opening a new fire station.

5. Metrorail

The Hyattsville Volunteer Fire Department is the only fire station in Prince George's County with two Metrorail stations in the first due response area. The Department is also specially trained and equipped to handle Metrorail and other heavy transportation emergencies throughout the Washington Metropolitan area. The HVFD serves as primary Metro response unit to six Metrorail stations: West Hyattsville, Prince George's Plaza, College Park, Greenbelt, Takoma and New Carrollton. [Attachment 3b]

6. Age, Usefulness and Life Expectancy of Existing Building

Constructed in 1958, the useful life of building systems, equipment and finishes has been exceeded in the existing fire station of the Hyattsville Volunteer Fire Department. Critical deficiencies in the heating, air conditioning and electrical systems exist. There is no diesel exhaust fume ventilation system to reduce and eliminate a hazardous atmosphere in the apparatus and living spaces. In addition, the existing structure inhibits the delivery of emergency services and has outlived its original design standards for safety and efficiency in the areas listed in Section #7 below.

7. Deficiencies in Existing Architectural, Mechanical/Electrical Systems and ADA

<u>SEGMENT</u>	<u>EXISTING</u>	<u>NEEDED</u>
1. Apparatus Bays - Width	16' 0"	20' 0"
2. Apparatus Bays - Depth	Insufficient, Varies	75' 0"
* Ambulance & Rescue Squad	30'	
* Engine Company	60'	
* Ladder Truck	65'	
3. Apparatus Bays - Height	Insufficient, Varies	16' 0"
* Ladder Truck Bay is 14', all others are 10'		
4. Administrative Areas	Insufficient Office Space	
5. Sleeping, Bathing and Toilets	Insufficient	
6. Training	NONE AVAILABLE	Space for at least 60 personnel
7. Storage and Maintenance	Minimal and Insufficient	

Circulation within the existing apparatus bays is severely compromised. Personnel and visitors must pass through the apparatus bays, with harmful diesel fumes as well as trip hazards, to get to other non-apparatus areas within the building such as bathrooms, sleeping areas, showers and laundry facilities. Also, personnel must travel through the kitchen to reach the administrative areas from the day room and apparatus bays. The existing arrangement of functions and circulation also jeopardizes the safety and security of emergency services personnel, visitors and guests in addition to being a hindrance of day-to-day operations.

The current structure is not in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The Hyattsville Volunteer Fire Department stands in support of this important civil rights legislation but unfortunately the existing structure holds us at risk and liable should an occupant, visitor or applicant feel discriminated against. For example, the current facility has no elevator access to the second level, the new firehouse would be ADA compliant to include an elevator for all levels.

VI. BUILDING AREA PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

After considerable research, evaluation and consideration, the following building design program was established by the Hyattsville Volunteer Fire Department. These requirements for a new facility to adequately serve the community's needs include brief comparisons of existing and anticipated need.

1. Apparatus Bays

Provide space for at least five emergency vehicles: One 100-foot tillered aerial ladder truck; Two Class-A 1250gpm pumpers; A heavy duty rescue squad that doubles as a Metro Support and Mass Casualty Unit; and a basic life support ambulance with the possibility of adding a second basic life support ambulance or advanced life support (paramedic) unit in the next five-to-seven years based on service need. [See Attachment 2 - Apparatus Payment and Replacement Schedule] At present, there is no room for any additional emergency vehicles.

Expansion is also needed for personnel emergency operations gears and equipment. When an emergency call comes out at this time, personnel don their protective clothing in cramped quarters, creating a safety concern each time the alarm bell sounds. When personnel gear up for an emergency response they are surrounded by the exhaust fumes dispersed by the apparatus engines being turned on.

Additional space in the apparatus bays will be used for maintenance of vehicles and equipment. At the present time, maintenance on equipment and vehicles has to be done outside at times because no space exists inside the current structure to facilitate such day-to-day operations.

The Department's two pumpers are now stacked back-to-back. In the event the first pumper fails to start or suffers other mechanical failure it will delay the response of the engine company by at least several minutes. In addition, past accidents have resulted when the bay door has been closed on the second pumper creating potential safety problems for personnel and apparatus.

The existing facility restricts the possibility of housing the most state-of-the-art and well equipped fire/rescue apparatus because of space limitations. For example, the heavy duty rescue squad purchased by the Department in 1993 had to be specially designed to fit within the space and weight capacity of the bays. A rescue squad with a heavy duty crane — as called for in the TDOZ plan — would be far too heavy and large to fit into the existing structure. Likewise, the Department's options will be limited in the coming years as it looks to purchasing replacement apparatus.

2. Administrative Areas

Provide offices for the Fire Chief, President, EMS officers, fire suppression officers, career officer and staff, treasurer, Battalion Chief, Board Room, general administrative office, mail room and small meeting areas. Currently, other than the Fire Chief's office, all offices are housed in a trailer originally intended as a temporary addition to the station. Space is limited in the existing structure and there is insufficient administrative office, file and supply storage.

3. Sleeping, Bathing and Toilets / Accommodations

Provide living and sleeping space for at least 30 sleep-in personnel: 16 live-in member bunk areas, at least 6 bunks in female quarters, and at least 8 bunks in men's sleeping quarters. There is an immediate need to provide adequate sleeping quarters, showers, toilets and amenities.

Currently, the female bunkroom has space for four the and female shower facilities are not adjacent to the sleeping quarters. In the women's bathroom, there will be additional toilets and expanded shower facilities and it will be connected directly to the female bunkroom. The new facility would increase toilets/urinals in the men's bathroom from four to six and showers from two to five. Locker space will be added to each bathing room for toiletries and personal shower items (not currently available in the existing building). Additionally, laundry facilities are on the lower level of the station, requiring members to take their laundry through the apparatus bays and daytime living areas. All bathing and toilet facilities in the current station are not ADA compliant due to the age and layout of the building.

Most live-in fire and emergency medical volunteers are full-time students at the University of Maryland, Montgomery College or other local colleges who live at the station in return for providing fire, rescue and EMS service.

VI. BUILDING AREA PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS (Con't)

4. Living, Recreation and Study Areas

Provide a dayroom for at least 20 personnel. Provide expanded kitchen with industrial-grade appliances and food storage space for up to 20 personnel. Provide eating area separate from kitchen and other living areas for a minimum of 20 people. Currently, the kitchen is situated in a walkway between the day living room and administrative trailer. There is a lack of refrigerator and cabinet storage space for all personnel, especially the volunteers who live at the fire station. The kitchen, a residential design, is small and inadequate for meal preparation.

Provide a study and library area for at least 10 students with space for desks, computers and a large work table. While the current study room was designed to accommodate five students, additional space has been created in window dormers because there is no room elsewhere. There is only space for two study room computers, while at least six are needed. There is no existing space for a library or general study table and the quarters are cramped.

5. Exercise Room

Provide an area for at least five people to exercise, utilizing weight training equipment, stationary bikes and treadmill. The current space is limited and doubles as the upstairs lounge. There is insufficient space for the exercise equipment to be used simultaneously by multiple members. Expanding this space by 50 square feet in the new facility and separating it from the lounge area will greatly enhance physical training activities. Physical training is of special importance to fire and rescue personnel because of the constant daily rigors involved in emergency operations. Lifting patients and performing fire-fighting and extrication operations requires regular training and conditioning by all members of the Department.

6. Storage - General, Personal and Equipment

Provide space for long-term storage of medical supplies, personal items, foot lockers, fire/rescue equipment, maintenance supplies, uniforms and bulk food/condiment items. Space for all of these items is minimal. Lockers for live-in members are not large enough to hold their clothing and other personal items. There is only a small closet on the first floor apparatus level for storage of emergency medical supplies and insufficient room in the upstairs storage closet to keep the basic life support ambulance fully stocked at all times, especially following a major incident. Stock of uniforms is limited to a locker and insufficient for the number of members at the Hyattsville Volunteer Fire Department. The storage closet on the second floor above the truck bay is at capacity and only houses less than half the equipment and supplies the Department should have on hand at all times.

7. Training and Meeting Space

Provide space for up to 60 people in instructional settings for classes, group fire and emergency medical training, company meetings and other purposes. Currently, the Department holds all necessary training and meetings in the main lounge on the first floor. This room also serves the additional role as the sole eating area and dayroom. The need to separate these activities is a constant burden on the daily activities and operations of the Hyattsville Volunteer Fire Department. Small groups are often called upon to hold classes or meetings in the corner of the room as other activities, such as meals and recreation are ongoing. Training facilities to include audio/visual capabilities and structured learning are a must for the progression of the high level of service of the Department. A classroom and training room would include a pantry, storage for training materials and separate entry on the ground level. This space would also be made available for public meeting use.

Training for volunteers continues to be at the forefront of the Department's activities. Under Prince George's County law, all volunteer fire and rescue personnel must complete a 110-hour Firefighter I course, a 125-hour Maryland Emergency Medical Technician-Basic course within three years of membership and before being actively involved in day-to-day emergency operations. Additionally, members must complete many hours of continuing education, including Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), Automatic External Defibrillation (AED), Trench and Collapse Awareness and Hazardous Materials Awareness. Our firefighters are also required to attain a minimum of Rescue Technician to participate in Heavy Duty Rescue Squad operations and a significant amount of additional specialized training for rescue squad functions is also needed. Last year, our members completed thousands of hours of training, often traveling more than 25 miles to attend classes. The hours spent traveling to and from classes translates into less time that members can volunteer their services at the station.

VI. BUILDING AREA PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS (Con't)

8. Police Sub Station

Provide office and storage space for at least two police officers to staff an additional sub station on the ground level of facility. This office could be used for completion of reports or general "on-the-street" meetings between police and citizens. With the planned population, traffic and expansion of structures in the area surrounding the fire station it likely will also increase calls for law enforcement services making this an ideal location for a sub-station.

9. Comparison of Program Requirements to Existing Fire Station

The existing fire station is 9,068 square feet. The proposed building area program requirements total 27,500 square feet.

<u>EXISTING BUILDING (9,068 SF)</u>		<u>PROPOSED NEW FACILITY (27,500 SF)</u>	
3,184 SF	Four Apparatus Bays	5,712 SF	Five Larger Apparatus Bays
809 SF	Administrative Area	1,942 SF	Administrative Offices
1,878 SF	Sleeping, Bathing & Toilets	3,916 SF	Sleeping, Bathing & Toilets
	Locker Room: None		Locker Room: 825 SF
	Laundry: In Boiler Room		Laundry: 360 SF Room
1,064 SF	Living Areas	2,278 SF	Living Areas
	Study Room: Approx. 250SF		Study Room: 500 SF
0 SF	Training Area	2,051 SF	Training Area
640 SF	Storage & Maintenance	2,930 SF	Storage & Maintenance
270 SF	Exercise / 2nd Floor Lounge	298 SF	Exercise Room
1,233 SF	Circulation / Other	8,130 SF	Circulation / Other
0 SF	Police Sub Station	293 SF	Police Sub Station

See Attachment 1 — Existing & Planned Facility Drawings & Site Plan

VII. RECOMMENDATION

Based on recommendations of building design and construction professionals; existing deficiencies in the architectural, mechanical/electrical and circulation systems; the age, usefulness and life expectancy of the building having been reached; potential population increase and high density construction; and anticipated increases in call volume and membership, it is the recommendation of the Hyattsville Volunteer Fire Department Board of Directors that the existing firehouse be razed and a replacement station be built as quickly as possible.



VIII. CONCLUSION

Replacement of the emergency services facility in Hyattsville is the best option to secure the continued level of service the Hyattsville Volunteer Fire Department provides to our community.

Renovation, while an option, is not viable because it would only be a “quick fix” and not a long term solution to our existing problems. The current fire station does not meet acceptable modern fire and rescue facility design standards for daily operations, safety and security. The apparatus areas are too small in length, width and height for today’s modern, state-of-the-art apparatus and there is a major lack of space for storage and maintenance related to their care. Program space throughout the building does not meet current or future needs of the Department. The firehouse was designed as merely a sub-station to store fire/rescue apparatus only. It was not designed and is not sufficient to house one of the county’s largest volunteer fire departments with an average of 12 to 15 personnel on duty. Building circulation is severely compromised by an outdated layout. There is a substantial need to replace or complete a major overhaul and expansion of this ever-growing emergency services station to facilitate efficient daily emergency, non-emergency, living and administrative functions.

The building codes adopted by the state of Maryland and enforced by Prince George’s County government are BOCA 1996 and NFPA Life Safety CODE 101. According to these laws and regulations, any addition or significant alterations to the existing structure will require compliance with these codes, as well as the American Disabilities Act.

While the projected cost of renovating the existing station to bring it up to standards is less, a cost of \$3 million compared to \$4.5 million for a new station, it is not a viable option in the opinion of the Department, architects and engineers. Renovation and expansion may solve the immediate needs of the Department now, but will not nearly begin to prepare for the expanded service and personnel requirements of the future.

The longer the Department waits to replace the existing facility, the more likely the cost will rise. The condition of the current building continues to decline rapidly, creating numerous safety problems and becoming a considerable hindrance to daily operations.

Given our financial commitments to pay off and purchase state-of-the-art apparatus and equipment, added with funding over 80% of the daily operational and administrative costs of the Department, it is impossible for the Hyattsville Volunteer Fire Department to bear the burden of funding construction of a new fire station. The level of charitable contributions is static or continues to decline annually and the recent end of charitable gaming cut off our most significant fund-raising activity.

The full replacement of the fire station will allow the Department to meet its needs for projected future service including rises in membership.

The members of the Hyattsville Volunteer Fire Department are a dedicated group of men and women who spend countless hours serving the community. They spend their free time, un-compensated, training in preparation for an emergency; providing fire safety and prevention education; participating in community programs and, lastly, responding to the community’s cries for help.

Without the support of our citizens, the city, county and state, the Department’s future well being is in doubt. Our services will be impeded, our membership will likely decline and our current high level of support to the community as a whole will be diminished.

The immediate and long-term impact of a new emergency services facility for the Hyattsville Volunteer Fire Department is immeasurable. Help make the vision for the future happen now — not for us, but for all of us.

Thank You,

The Officers and Members of the
Hyattsville Volunteer Fire Department

Jonathan Aaron Ransom, President
Donald B. Moltrup, Chief

ATTACHMENT I

**Existing and Planned
Facility Drawings and Site Plan**

ATTACHMENT 2

**Apparatus Payment and
Replacement Schedule**

Hyattsville Volunteer Fire Department Inc. APPARATUS PAYMENT & REPLACEMENT SCHEDULE

EMERGENCY VEHICLE	YEARS REMAINING ON LOAN*	ANNUAL PAYMENT	TOTAL OWED	REPLACEMENT YEAR	ANTICIPATED REPLACEMENT COST***
Ambulance 18	5 Years on 5-Year Loan	\$28,500	\$142,500	2002	at least \$140,000
Engine 11	None	\$0	\$0	2005	at least \$275,000
Engine 12	None	\$0	\$0	2003	at least \$275,000
Truck 1	6 Years on 7-Year Loan	\$107,000	\$624,000**	2016	at least \$750,000
Rescue Squad 1	3 Years on 7-Year Loan	\$73,000	\$219,000	2008	at least \$550,000

Notes:

- * Years Remaining Includes 1998
- ** Last Truck Payment in 2003 is \$89,000
- *** Based On Current Year Dollars

**Hyattsville VFD Emergency Vehicles
In front of the Fire Station in 1997**



ATTACHMENT 3

MAPS

a) Primary Response Area and
Neighboring Fire Station Consolidation

b) First Alarm Response Area
Prince George's and Montgomery Counties

c) Prince George's Plaza
Transit District Overlay Zone

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