



July 25, 2019

The Honorable Richard Valle
Alameda County Supervisor, District 2
1221 Oak Street, #536
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: Union City Fire Station 30

Dear Supervisor Valle:

On Tuesday, July 16, the City Council voted 4-1 to close Fire Station 30 operated by the Alameda County Fire Department, which is located on Eastin Court at the border of Union City and Fremont.

This decision did not come easy to the City Council considering they have to answer to the public and face mounting political pressure from the Alameda County Fire Union Local 55. However, the facts are clear that Fire Station 30 is simply not needed: the three remaining fire stations, without question, can provide the right level of service to the entire community.

The decision to close Fire Station 30 stems from an independent analysis of calls for service and deployment data by nationally-renowned public safety experts from Center Public Safety Management (CPSM) who is the exclusive provider for public safety technical assistance for the International City/County Management Association. CPSM was called on to help the City identify areas of cost efficiency with the goal of controlling the rising cost of the City's contract with the Alameda County Fire Department, which has increased 40% since 2010/2011.

The City has been working tirelessly over the last two years to address an ongoing \$3.5 million structural deficit to the General Fund. As it stands today, community center and library hours have been reduced, code enforcement has been eliminated, park maintenance has been reduced and the School Resource Officer program has been eliminated. City administration, including planning and engineering, are significantly understaffed, which impacts our ability to expedite development in Union City. In addition, the Union City Police Department is operating at a minimum with just four police officers patrolling our entire city during many shifts. The City simply cannot continue to dip into our savings to cover its operating costs and the annual increases placed on us by the Alameda County Fire Department.

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the mayor

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Since the City began managing its structural deficit over two years ago, the Alameda County Fire Department has not offered any solutions outside of brown outs, and rather, has come back to us each year with annual contract increases. The City can no longer afford this, nor is it sustainable year after year as we strive to live within our means.

The facts truly bear out that this decision is right for the community: there are just 1.7 calls on average per 24-hour period from Station 30, at a cost of \$3.2 million per year. As a comparison, this is significantly less than what is handled from the other three stations in the community.

The independent analysis also found that Station 30 is not needed to serve the future growth as the only remaining land near the station is in a flood plain that cannot be developed.

We do understand that this decision has an impact on the County Fire Department and their ability to serve our neighboring communities. However, Union City can only make decisions based on what is best for those who live here.

If you have any questions, I encourage you to email me, call me or set up a meeting with me. I'm happy to discuss more why Union City made this decision.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Carol Dutra-Vernaci'.

CAROL DUTRA-VERNACI
Mayor
City of Union City, California