



## Department of Fire and Emergency Services Quick Facts Fire Station 17 Project

### Contact Information

Richmond Fire Department  
Attention:  
Deputy Chief E. Taylor  
201 E. Franklin Street  
Richmond, VA 23219  
(804) 646-2127

**Mayor**  
Dwight Jones

**Fire Chief:**  
Robert Creecy

**Council District:**  
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**Location:**  
2211 Semmes Ave  
Canoe Run Park  
with frontage on  
Semmes Ave

**Funding Source:**  
ARRA Grant

**Date of Award:**  
September 23, 2009

**Completion Date:**  
September 2012

**Award Amount:**  
\$3,264,110.00

**Project Area:**  
Approx 10,836 square feet.

**Bay Doors:**  
3

### Background

The existing Fire Station No. 17 is currently located on Bainbridge Street in the Old South Planning District. Built in 1917 for horse drawn equipment, this one story brick frame building has been in continuous use without any major renovations. Fire Station No. 17 has significant operational deficiencies and substantial on-going facility maintenance problems reflective of a ninety-three year old facility.

The Richmond Fire Department will replace the existing fire station with a new one located at 2211 Semmes Avenue. This new fire station will be built to meet the ever expanding demands of a modern fire department.

### Replacement of Fire Station 17 FAQ's

#### **Q. Why Canoe Run Park? Is this site a good location for the fire station?**

**A.** The Department evaluated 4 sites. (The existing location of Bainbridge, Carter Jones Park, Old Safeway Store, and Canoe Run.) Each of these sites presented challenges. An independent architect consulted on this project and evaluated each of these sites. As a result they found that the Canoe Run site was most advantageous.

#### **Q. What will happen to the rest of Canoe Run Park?**

**A.** The Fire & Emergency Services Department has agreed to provide park improvements requested by the Department of Parks & Recreation that will enhance the safety, functionality and user experience of Canoe Run Park.

#### **Q. What are the benefits of having this station in our neighborhood?**

**A.** Replacing this facility will have a tremendous impact on better service to the neighborhoods from a 21st century fire station/public service facility that provides proper accommodations for full-time resident firefighters assigned while benefiting citizens and customers alike.

#### **Q. What is the cost of the proposed new fire Station?**

**A.** The total estimated project cost is \$4,664,110. The Richmond Fire and Emergency Services Department has secured an American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA) federal stimulus grant administered through the FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant Office for \$3,264,110 and is requesting the remaining \$1,400,000 through the FY 2011-2015 CIP process.

#### **Q. What will happen to the old firehouse?**

**A.** The City is proud that many of its fire stations are historic structures that add to the character of neighborhoods throughout the city. Currently, the department is recommending that the existing Fire Station be converted into a satellite administrative and logistical support office. It is our intent to maintain the outside envelop of the building in its current appearance.

#### **Q. Will there be meeting rooms available?**

**A.** At present there are no plans to provide community meeting space. The Fire & Emergency Services Department has agreed to provide park improvements requested by the Department of Parks & Recreation that will enhance the safety, functionality and user experience of Canoe Run Park.

**Q. What can be done about the possible noise the trucks will bring to the area?**

A. Fire Station 17 will be orientated so that the station departure route fronts Semmes Avenue. Additionally, the station's structure and alerting systems will be designed to minimize noise.

**Q. How long will this project take?**

A. The period allowed by the Firefighters Station Construction Grants (FSC) is 36 months from the date of award. However the actual construction is planned for 14 months.

**Q. How will the construction traffic and noise be managed during the building process?**

A. The department is sensitive to the fact that there are surrounding residential properties. To the extent possible we will seek to mitigate the impact of construction related traffic and noise.

**Q. What will the station look like?**

A. The Department recognizes that this project is occurring in an Old & Historic District. We are sensitive to the need to produce a design that is consistent in character to surrounding neighborhoods. The design firm selected will be instructed to take there cues from existing architectural features found in Woodland Heights and Springhills. Conceptual and schematic drawings will be shared as these become available.

**Q. Will the Fire Department keep interested parties informed as to the progress of this project?**

A. Yes. The department has communicated with community groups in the effected area and will continue to do so. Information is also posted on the Rcihmond Fire Department Website. Please feel free to contact [Elmond.Taylor@richmondgov.com](mailto:Elmond.Taylor@richmondgov.com) with your questions or concerns.

**Q. Why can't the city buy the old 7-11?**

A. At present the City has not identified funds to purchase this property.

**Q. Isn't this an "Old and Historic District"?**

A. Yes, the new fire station will reflect and preserve the unique qualities of the historic neighborhood.

**Q. Will citizens have a say during the design process?**

A. The department welcomes comments and observations. The design team will be instructed to engage the community in a dialog about the look of the fire station.

**Q. Is this the best time to build in light of the current economic situation?**

A. The primary funding source of this Fire Station 17 project is from the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act – Assistance to Fire Fighters Grant program. Additionally, due to the current economic climate, construction cost are at a low, so now is a good time for a project such as this Fire Station 17 construction.

**Q. Will the station be handling hazardous materials that will pose a threat to the community?**

A. There will be no impact resulting from hazardous waste or contamination because the station will not be used to treat or store hazardous materials.