



Officers

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15-1252-S1 – Agenda item #3

My name is Ann Job and I am President of the Sylmar Neighborhood Council. I am here representing our Board in the absence of Diane Valencia, who is our Board's appointed Public Safety Liaison who regrettably, is unable to attend today due to her work schedule.

Our Board has identified long LAFD response times in our community to be one of our most important issues and we are thankful for Councilmember Fuentes being supportive on this critical issue.

Over the years, our community has actively advocated to obtain and keep appropriate LAFD resources. In 1985, The Los Angeles City Fire Commission approved the deployment of the first paramedic rescue ambulance at Station 91 after a hearing in which officials said that paramedic response time in the area was unacceptable and "unequivocally too long."

According to City planners, Sylmar had emerged from the 1980's as the fastest-growing community in the city with a 30.7% population increase and an almost equal growth rate in housing construction. Our community has grown exponentially since the initial opening of Station 91 in 1956.

Around 1980, Station 91 assumed shared responsibility for fire protection services for the City of San Fernando, which we believe further stresses the limited resources currently available to our community.

In 2006, Council File No 03-2160 discussed the possibility of building a Regional Fire Station to serve Sylmar and surrounding communities. It was noted that during the 5 years preceding the initial study on this project, that the demand for service had increased by 29% in Sylmar.

Also In 2006, there was a groundbreaking ceremony for the intended construction of new Fire Station 31 in Sylmar. Construction was never commenced.

The City had also previously expressed an interest to purchase one or both firehouses in the City of San Fernando. The City ultimately, did not purchase these properties.

Sylmar was also not selected as the recipient of Prop F funding which benefited many other communities in recent years through the construction of new fire stations or the expansion and remodeling of existing ones.

We continue to receive reports from our residents of response times in excess of 9 and 10 minutes, which greatly concerns us. We feel that we are years overdue in receiving additional LAFD resources, including at least one additional fire station to help ensure the safety of our residents. We respectfully request that Sylmar be prioritized as a community deserving of these important resources.