



COMMUNITY
BOARD #14

September 18, 2015

Chief Robert Leonard
Broad Channel Volunteers Inc.
Broad Channel Volunteer Fire Department and Ambulance Corps
15 Noel Road
Broad Channel New York, 11693

COMMUNITY BOARD #14
City of New York
Borough of Queens

DOLORES ORR
Chairperson

JONATHAN GASKA
District Manager

Dear Chief Leonard:

The Broad Channel Volunteer Fire Department and Ambulance Corps firehouse is located on the Northwest corner of Noel and Church Roads. Christ Presbyterian Church by the Sea is located on the Southeast corner and St. Virgilius RC Church and school are located on the Southwest corner directly opposite the firehouse. Noel Road, a two way Street is approximately 30 feet wide and Church Road is a 20 foot one way street. In front of St Virgilius Church is a fire zone/no parking area is established so apparatus can turn Northbound on Noel Road from the BCYFD garage exit.

Noel Road is also the main access road for the NYCT "A" train station located at the Eastern end of this street. This station serves in excess of 600 commuters each day accessing the station via cars or on foot. Both Churches that share this intersection are also heavily trafficked with active preschool and religious programs, seniors programs, and weekend religious services. Approximately 450 to 500 pedestrians and autos can frequent the intersection of Noel and Church Roads on any given day. In addition, NYCT vehicles, Department of Sanitation collections, package deliveries (UPS / Fed Ex), and fuel deliveries for the 33 homes located on Noel Road, as well as those who use the one way streets that feed into Noel Road. This area has the largest concentration of homes in the community that makes this intersection one of the most dangerous for Fire Department personnel and neighborhood residents.

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Over the last ten years the BCVFD averaged 275 emergency calls per year. Vehicles also routinely exit the facility for maintenance, equipment inspection, parades, funeral details, supply runs, drills and retinue training. In any calendar year it is very likely that BVFD vehicles enter onto Noel road on 1200 occasions 95% of these incursions will travel north along Noel and enter Crossbay Boulevard, A signaled intersection that is not controlled by the BCVFD. Members responding from home also must travel on Noel and find parking before the apparatus can leave for emergency runs.

It is the conclusion of Community Board 14 that relocating the BCVFD to the new facility on Crossbay Boulevard and West 3rd Road will allow for safe entry of emergency vehicles into the main artery of traffic via a controlled trolled traffic signal and provide an accelerated response to emergencies and traffic hazards throughout Broad Channel and especially on Crossbay Boulevard without causing new issues there. In addition, it will greatly enhance the safety of pedestrians,, bicyclists, and motorists in the Noel Road residential area by removing emergency vehicle access from this heavily trafficked local residential street.

We hereby reiterate our endorsement of this project as referenced in our letter to the City Planning Commission on September 20th, 2011 that reaffirmed the unanimous vote on this agenda at our November 12th, 2003 meeting.

Jonathan Gaska, DM



Community Board 14

JG/dls