



GLENVIEW FIREFIGHTERS LOCAL 4186

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Glenview Fire Department Plans to Cut Fire Truck

Glenview Village Board Direction Means Citizens Wait Longer for Help

Glenview, Illinois: On February 2, 2021, the Glenview Board of Trustees directed staff to close Fire Station 13 at 831 East Lake Ave. The new response model will increase response times on the east side of Glenview and throughout the village when it eliminates one fire truck from the system.

The Glenview Fire Department has maintained at least two fire trucks and one ambulance east of the Metra tracks for over 50 years. In that time, the village has developed, population has nearly doubled, and emergency calls continue to rise.

The village spent \$59,995 on a study by Fitch & Associates to analyze the utilization of the fire department. The experts said, "We don't necessarily see a strong opportunity to eliminate a fire station," and "we have a good footprint at providing quality level services."

The study demonstrated a fact that was already clear: Station 13 is the slowest station in the department. Employees' time is filled with vehicle and building maintenance, training, and department administrative work. The consultant explained that emergency services must be designed on a readiness model, not one that strictly looks at time on task.

Fitch further said, "Risk in 13 is low but you have to look at the ability of other units and their availability to handle calls and what their response time will be." They were referring to the other companies in the fire department: they are far away and too often busy, leading to long response times to the east.

The study demonstrated a long-know fact: most of the fire department's work revolves around medical care. This is not new. Spreading resources out throughout an area is common practice and is done to reduce response times. In emergency services, response times are paramount.

The fire trucks located throughout the village are staffed with three trained and experienced professionals who are practiced and equipped to handle a stroke, cardiac arrest, power line down, motor vehicle accident, carbon monoxide leak, and a fire. Removing a resource from the system, against the advice of the hired experts, will mean people wait longer in an emergency.