



January 11, 2015

To: The City of Calgary

Re: POLICY AMENDMENTS, DISPOSITION OF RESERVE AND LAND USE AMENDMENT, TUSCANY (WARD 1), TUSCANY WAY NW AT THE INTERSECTION OF TUSCANY VALLEY PARK NW, BYLAWS 3P2015 AND 10D2015, CPC2015-010

Attention: City Council

As a follow-up to our letter written June, 2014, the Tuscany Community Association (TCA) respectfully offers additional comments in order to address a few points which were recently discussed by the Planning Commission:

- 1) Tuscany is currently serviced by the Fire Station in Silver Springs, and is unable to meet established standards for emergency medical responses anywhere in our community, and just able to meet established standards for fire rescue incidents at residences at the three entrances of our community. The new interchange at Stoney Trail/Crowchild Trail and the related change in access from Tuscany Boulevard to Scenic Acres Link have greatly increased the distance required to access Tuscany from Silver Springs, and this has had a significant negative impact on the response times for emergency vehicles. **The majority of homes in Tuscany are no longer within a reasonable time response zone, and we are very concerned about the safety of these residences and our 20,000 residents.** An additional benefit is that Lynx Ridge would also be within prescribed standards for emergency response.
- 2) We understand the desire to include a variety of uses in these facilities going forward, and the Fire Department has amended the original plans to include more uses. Due to the proximity of the site to the townhouses to the south, we would prefer the City not consider a multi-storey building, as this would overshadow some of these residences and would create an influx of additional traffic. We appreciate the concerns of the residents facing this site, and we have encouraged the Fire Department to make every effort to offer as much distance as possible between the station and the townhouses.
- 3) The parcel of land to the west of this proposed site will not be 'orphaned,' as the adjacent soccer fields will remain between the Emergency Response Station and the elementary school. These are currently mini soccer fields, and as Tuscany has one of the highest populations of young children in Calgary, we will continue to make use of these fields for many years.
- 4) The TCA agrees with the comments regarding early planning and cooperation between various agencies in the future. In Tuscany's case, it may be too late, but we encourage

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improved strategies for future communities in Calgary.

We are pleased that EMS has been invited to provide services via this Emergency Response Station. In addition, a space for community use (20 seat boardroom) has been added to the plans. Office space for use by City employees is also under consideration, which would enable staff to operate in the community occasionally, avoiding a long commute and offering Tuscany residents the ability to meet with City representatives locally, when appropriate. The facility will also offer emergency shelter for students at the future elementary school, which is to be built by 2016 on the north section of the greenspace.

The construction of an emergency facility on this site will improve response times significantly for Tuscany residents, addressing a critical gap in public safety. We understand there were challenges with the other sites considered, including Direct Control of the corners of the main intersection at Tuscany Boulevard and Tuscany Way, unacceptable response times from sites at the far south or far north parts of the community, as well as challenging slopes and difficult access/egress. For those reasons, we support the proposed site as the best overall location for the fire station.

The TCA suggests City Council file CPC's recommendations and support Administration's approval of the disposition of reserve and land use amendment.

Regards,

Kelli Taylor
President, Tuscany Community Association

cc: Greg Wilkes, Deputy Chief, Calgary Fire Department
Randy Bryksa, Director, Metro Operations, Emergency Medical Services, Calgary Zone
TCA Board of Directors

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