



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

DATE ISSUED: February 13, 2013 REPORT NO:
ATTENTION: Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee
SUBJECT: Annual Update on Citygate Recommendations Implementation Plan to Improve Fire-Rescue Emergency Response Capabilities
REFERENCE: None

REQUESTED ACTION

This is an informational item only. No action is required by the Committee or the City Council.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Accept the Report.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY/BACKGROUND

The Citygate Report on fire safety was presented to the Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee (PS&NS) in February 2011. The report noted several challenges in the Fire-Rescue Department's ability to provide emergency service delivery within nationally recognized best practice response times. This deficiency is attributable to a shortage of response resources that accrued over several decades, and other operational issues. Citygate made several recommendations to address these challenges over time.

To create an implementation plan for the recommendations contained in the report, the PS&NS Committee empanelled the Citygate Working Group (CWG). The CWG consisted of Councilmember Marti Emerald, Councilmember David Alvarez, Fire-Rescue Chief Javier Mainar, representatives from the Office of the Independent Budget Analyst (IBA), Office of the City Attorney, and from San Diego City Firefighters Local 145.

The CWG developed an Implementation Plan outlining specific actions steps to be taken over a five-year schedule to address the Citygate recommendations. This Implementation Plan was presented to the full City Council for consideration on November 15, 2011 and was adopted by the City Council by a unanimous vote.

This annual report to PS&NS on the status of the Implementation Plan is required under the adopted Plan to be provided to the Committee by July 31 so the Committee may make any recommendations to the City Council by September 30. However, because of the Mayoral transition, the Committee requested an update report to be presented at its January 2013 meeting.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN STATUS

The first year of the Implementation Plan (FY2012) called for specific action steps to implement eight recommendations made by Citygate and two related implementation actions developed by the CWG. As of period seven of FY2013, four of the ten recommendations have been implemented, one has been partially implemented, four are in process and the remaining two have not been implemented due to budgetary constraints. The recommendations and their status are listed in the following table. Recommendations that have not yet been implemented are explained in the text that follows.

Rec. #	Description	Cost (\$)	Action Needed	Status
1	Adopt revised deployment measures	0	Council-Administrative	Completed
2	Adopt fire station location measures, create revised fire station CIP projects	0	Council - Administrative	In Process
3	Adopt aggregate population definitions	0	Council - Administrative	Completed
4	Add back the 8 browned out engines	11.5M	Council-Budget	Completed
5	Adopt the priority criteria of Citygate Study for where to add resources	0	Council-Administrative	Completed
6	Review and adopt dispatch process improvement	0	Administrative	In Process
7	Direct City Corporate Partnership (CCP) to find a 100% pay partner for Fast Response Squad (FRS) Pilot Program. Fire Chief to map out program elements, costs and develop vehicle specifications and operating procedures. CCP to deliver 100% sponsorship.		Administrative	In Process
8	Replace fire station alerting system (Phase 1)	1.7M	Council-Budget	In Process
CWG 1	Purchase of truck apparatus for Eastside Mission Valley fire station (Sta. 45)	1.1M	Council-Budget	Not Completed
CWG 2	Funding for design and planning of Home Ave. fire station	.75M	Council-Budget	Not Completed

Recommendation #2 – All elements have been completed with the exception of revising the CIP projects. All Community Plans are under review to ensure required fire stations are included in the Facility Financing Plans. While projects can be created as CIP placeholders, the projects themselves cannot advance absent funding approvals.

Recommendation #6 –A process change was implemented to speed the dispatch of first responders to medical incidents. This has resulted in a 42 second improvement in response times. The replacement of the failing station alerting system (RFP is being re-advertised) will likely provide additional time savings.

A grant request to IBM for an analysis of the Fire-Rescue dispatch process to determine if any efficiencies can be gained through modified processes was not successful.

Recommendation #7 – This is discussed in THE FAST RESPONSE SQUAD (FRS) PILOT PROGRAM section of this report below.

Recommendation #8 - \$4.3M has been budgeted to complete replacement of the fire station alerting system. Engineering and Capital Projects is managing this project in conjunction with Fire-Rescue staff. An RFP has been advertised.

Recommendation #CWG 1 –No funding has been allocated for a truck specifically for Fire Station 45.

Recommendations #CWG 2 – No funding has been allocated for Home Avenue fire station design.

Those recommendations above that have not been implemented by the end of Fiscal Year 2013 will be added to the Year Two Implementation Plan which now begins in FY2014. The 2nd year Implementation Plan is shown in the following table:

Rec. #	Description	Cost	Action Needed	Status
5	Funding for Battalion Chief Unit	.53M	Council-Budget	Pending
8	Replace fire station alerting system (Phase II)	2.6M	Council-Budget	Completed
CWG 3	Completion of Eastside Mission Valley Fire Station	3M	Council-Budget	Pending
CWG 4	Funding for staffing of Eastside Mission Valley Station	2.2M	Council-Budget	Pending
CWG 5	Funding for construction of Home Avenue Fire Station	8M	Council-Budget	Pending
CWG 6	Funding for purchase of fire engine for Home Avenue Fire Station	.78M	Council-Budget	Pending
CWG 7	Funding for design and planning for Paradise Hills Fire Station	.75M	Council-Budget	Pending
	TOTAL PROJECTED COST	17.86M	Council-Budget	

FAST RESPONSE SQUAD (FRS) PILOT PROGRAM

The Fast Response Squad (FRS) concept was explored by a committee of management and Local 145 representatives. This group examined operational policy best practices and vehicle design and implementation costs. The committee developed a policy framework for a one-year pilot program costing approximately \$769K (PE \$527K and NPE \$242K). If approved, the FRS Pilot would function as follows:

Deployment

The FRS unit would be deployed in the area of Encanto for six months and Liberty Station for six months as these are the top two locations recommended for FRS deployment by Citygate. The unit may also serve some of the other identified FRS locations for shorter periods for the purpose of additional data collection. The FRS would be staffed by a Captain (supervisor) and Firefighter/Paramedic for 12 hours per day, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., which encompasses the peak incident demand time cited in the Citygate report.

Dispatching

The FRS will be added to the response for all incidents currently requiring an engine company. If the FRS is first to arrive, the crew will take any mitigation actions it can safely accomplish with a two-person crew and will have the discretion to cancel or add units, as dictated by incident conditions and potential.

Program Evaluation

The effectiveness of the FRS Pilot program will be evaluated through an analysis of dispatch and incident reports coupled with a review of personnel and equipment utilization. This latter component will be accomplished through interviews and reports from FRS personnel as well as

crews from adjacent districts responding with the FRS unit and field management personnel. Specific areas of review include the following:

- Number of FRS responses in the identified service area(s);
- Incidents where the FRS was the first arriving unit;
- Frequency of the FRS unit cancelling other first responders;
- Number of simultaneous incidents in identified service area(s).
- Impact (+/-) on response times in the service area(s);
- Impact on incident outcomes.

The Fire Chief will work with the City's Corporate Partnership Program to determine if there is interest in funding all or a portion of the pilot program. A budget request will be submitted in a future budget year if no sponsorship funding is provided.

FISCAL CONSIDERATIONS

Year One (FY2012) Implementation Plan – Funding (\$13.2M) for all recommendations except CWG 1 (\$1.1M) and CWG 2 (.75M) was provided.

Year Two (FY2013) Implementation Plan – Funding of \$2.6M for replacement of the Fire Station Alerting System was provided. No funding (\$15.26M) has been identified for implementation of the remaining recommendations.

A total of \$17.11M would be required in FY2014 to fully implement all recommendations in years one and two of the five-year plan.

The proposed one-year Fast Response Squad Pilot Program would require \$769K (PE \$527K and NPE \$242K) through corporate sponsorship or General Fund request in a future budget year.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL and/or COMMITTEE ACTIONS

City Council adopted the Citygate Working Group Implementation Plan on November, 15, 2011 (Resolution #R02012-129)

Update Report provided to PS&NS Committee on January 25, 2012.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND PUBLIC OUTREACH EFFORTS

N/A

KEY STAKEHOLDERS AND PROJECTED IMPACTS

Community and Citizens


Javier Mainar, Fire Chief