

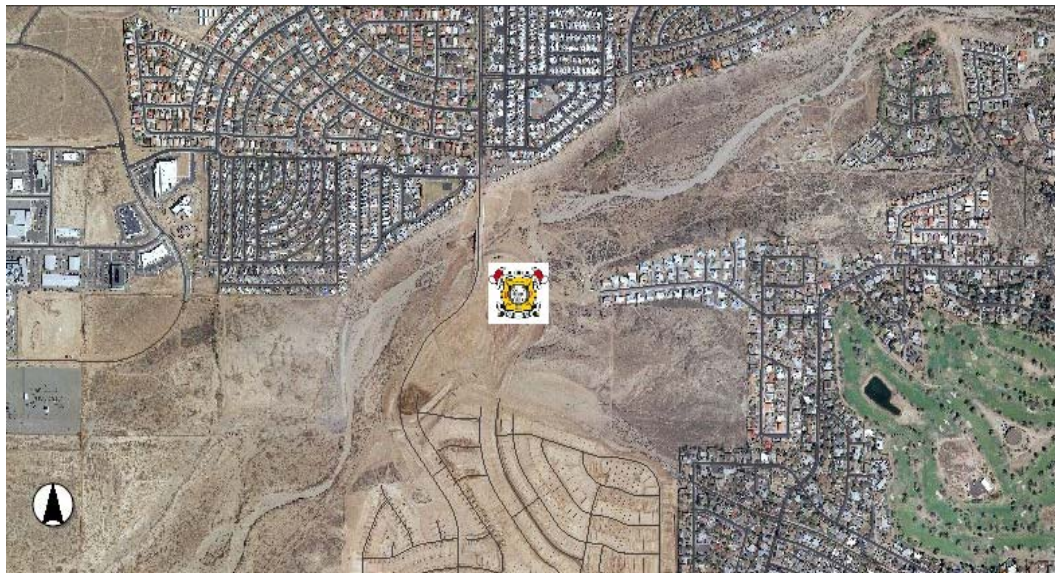
Summary of New Fire Station Meeting

February 5, 2008 - Manzano Mesa Multigenerational Center

The current policy of the FHVNA is to (1) press for public meetings on the new fire station, and (2) give residents an opportunity to voice opinions and suggestions through voting. At the time of the meeting, approximately 50 residents had voted, the overwhelming majority favoring the new fire station, and about 25 others have voted since the meeting. We note that this policy is off to a good start: the new Fire Station is a few years off and we have already had a city-sponsored public meeting. This contrasts with a previous situation in which many residents first learned of speed humps in the neighborhood when they were installed. If you are interested in issues concerning the new fire station, please attend the public meetings, and please vote.

Below is a summary of the presentation given by several of the city staff including AFD Chief Ortega, Deputy Chief Gil Santistevan, Commander Mark Garcia, Councilor Harris, Tom Menicucci, and John Zaman, and the developers of Juan Tabo Hills, Vinny Pizzonia and Scott Grady. Relevant resident comments are included.

The proposed location of the New FS is in a proposed mall located on an extension of Via Posada in Juan Tabo Hills (JTH).



Chief Ortega discussed the possibility of putting the fire station in a different location, and the methodology of selecting the location. He said that other locations could also be considered; however, the need and approximate location had been confirmed by an 8-month independent study.

The current gate on Via Posada will be replaced with a gate that can only be opened in emergencies. In addition to medical and fire emergencies, the city made the point that it would like the gate to be used in other emergencies such as snow, construction, or emergency evacuation. To quell concerns about the gate becoming opened

permanently, Councilor Harris is proposing legislation to preclude that possibility (see [draft legislation](#)).

The one-way-in and one-way-out access to Four Hills Village will be preserved. Kevin Smith of the new JTH development stated that they are in favor of a new fire station in their neighborhood. They also want the gate to be used only in emergencies because they do not want cut-through traffic.



Example Of An Emergency Gate In Another Location

Vinny Pizzonla and Scott Grady of Juan Tabo Hills (JTH) confirmed that they are donating the land to the city for a new fire station. There are persistent rumors that the developers have received requests asking that JTH not donate this land. The requests are apparently coming from a few residents of Four Hills Village who oppose the new fire station, although the developers did not confirm this accusation.

The fire station currently serving the area, FS #12, is one of the busiest in the city, currently ranking 7th and 5th for EMS/Rescue and fire truck response, respectively. A two year average of the high-priority EMS/Rescue response for the Four Hills area is 8 minutes 40 seconds, and for low-priority response 10 minutes 24 seconds.

The AFD concluded in their VuGraph presentation that (1) "The Growth in the Area Demands a New Station in the AFD Midterm Plan," and (2) "The Station Will Improve Safety and Security."

The report of an independent consultant was given stating the new fire station will save between 2-3 additional lives per year. The result is based on the average response time reduction of about 3.6 minutes in servicing calls to FHV. There was discussion about the response time of a subset of high-priority calls, so-called Echo calls, from the AFD which appeared to contradict this conclusion, but subsequent meetings with the AFD staff indicates there is no discrepancy. Detailed response data has been requested for analysis and publication.

The opponents of the new fire station voiced the concern that the emergency gate would be permanently opened and traffic along Via Posada would be excessive. The gate issue is being addressed by legislation, and the increased traffic along Via Posada would be about 3 trips per week. Sirens are not used in the early mornings (3 AM). It was pointed out that traffic along Via Posada would be no more than the total current traffic volume along Wagon Train and Stagecoach.

Next Steps: There will be more public meetings. If you are interested, please attend, and please vote on <http://www.fhvna.org>

Four Hills Village Neighborhood Association