COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

By: Council President at the request of the County Executive

SUBJECT: Approval of Fire Station 18 Relocation

Background

1. County Code Section 21-4(b) prohibits a local fire and rescue department from changing the location of any facility used to provide fire and rescue services in the County without County Council approval and prohibits the County Executive from including a site for any facility used to provide fire and rescue services in a proposed Capital Improvements Program unless the Council has approved the location or relocation of the facility.

2. In correspondence dated May 4, 2006, the Executive requested that the Council approve the relocation of Fire Station 18 from its current location at 12251 Georgia Avenue to the “WMATA Triangle” property located on the west side of Georgia Avenue directly across from Glenallan Avenue.

3. Fire Station 18 must be relocated due to the State Highway Administration’s (SHA) plan for a grade separation at the intersection of Georgia Avenue and Randolph Road. The Kensington Volunteer Fire Department property on which Station 18 now stands lies within the right-of-way required by SHA to construct the grade separation; thus Station 18 will be purchased by the State from the Kensington Volunteer Fire Department, contingent on approval of the sale by the Chief Administrative Officer or County Council under County Code Section 21-26(c), and eventually demolished.

4. The Fire, Rescue, Emergency Medical Services, and Community Risk Reduction Master Plan recommends (in Recommendation 3a) relocating Station 18 to a site in the vicinity of the existing site because of the State’s need to obtain right-of-way for the grade separation project.

5. The Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service has determined that relocating Station 18 to the WMATA Triangle property, approximately 0.3 mile north of the existing site, will not adversely impact service delivery to the Glenmont area. The relocation should result in improved service in terms of meeting response time goals in the Glenmont area and providing backup service to Station 25 serving the high call load area of Aspen Hill and Leisure World.
6. The WMATA Triangle property is the recommended site for relocating Station 18 as result of the site evaluation process led by the Mid-County Regional Services Center Director. The decision memorandum (dated March 14, 2006) selecting the WMATA site was approved by the Chief Administrative Officer on March 28, 2006, with the concurrence of the Fire Chief, Department of Public Works and Transportation Director, and Office of Management and Budget Director.

7. Station 18 could be co-located with the Glenmont Parking Garage on the WMATA Triangle site or with an expanded "Kiss & Ride" facility on the WMATA Triangle site, depending upon whether the parking garage is sited on the east side or on the west side of Georgia Avenue on WMATA-owned property.

Action

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following resolution:

The County Council approves the proposed relocation of Fire Station 18 from its current location at 12251 Georgia Avenue to the "WMATA Triangle" property located on the west side of Georgia Avenue, directly across from Glenallan Avenue.

This approval applies to the relocation only and does not imply any commitment of County funds to this project. If the County Executive recommends this project in a future Capital Improvements Program, the Council will consider a request for County funding at that time.

The County Council urges those involved with the project to work with neighbors on the east and west side of Georgia Avenue to respond to community concerns regarding noise and the movement of non-emergency vehicles.

This is a correct copy of Council action.

Elda M. Dodson, CMC, Acting Clerk of the Council