

Correspondence



RABBIT CREEK COMMUNITY COUNCIL (RCCC) A Forum for Respectful Communication & Community Relations



1057 West Fireweed Lane, Suite 100 / Anchorage, AK 99503

Anchorage Fire Department

April 17, 2023

Dear Chief Schrage:

The Rabbit Creek Community Council (RCCC) is deeply grateful for the critical role the Anchorage Fire Department (AFD) plays in the safety and well-being of our residents through both its firefighting and emergency medical services (EMS).

At our March 9, 2023, RCCC meeting, we learned that a recent shift has occurred in the level of EMS services provided at Station 12: conversion from an Advanced Life Support (ALS) to a Basic Life Support (BLS) unit to increase the availability of BLS services south of Dowling Road. We understand that balancing EMS resources against shifting service demands is a complex calculation involving multiple considerations and approaches. We appreciate that Station 9, the closest ALS station to RCCC area residents, remains an ALS/Mobile Intensive Care Unit (MICU).

Census data show that 16% of our RCCC area residents (along with Bear Valley and Glenn Alps) are over 60 years of age and at higher risk of experiencing cardiac emergencies requiring ALS level care during transport. Many live in more remote hillside areas distant from major roads. Although our area has a lower density of residents resulting in a lower EMS call volume, our calls have the potential for both higher medical acuity situations and longer response and transport times.

We are concerned that as Station 9 MICU personnel are now responding to calls from a wider area in South Anchorage than they have previously, there is the potential that the increased demand for MICU services could result in longer ALS/MICU response times in our more remote hillside RCCC service areas.

We would like to request that AFD evaluate Station 9 ALS/MICU response times for the next six months for changes from baseline response time so our RCCC and other Hillside area residents can be reassured that ALS staffing levels remain adequate to meet AFD ALS response time goals in our area. We would welcome an open communication with you during this time.

We would also like to extend an invitation to you or a designee from your office to come as a guest to our September or October RCCC meeting and let us know the results of the response time monitoring.

Thank you in advance.

Ann Rappoport, Co-chair

John Riley, Co-chair

cc: Hillside, Huff/O'Malley, Glen Alps, Bear Valley, Abbot Lp, Bayshore/Klatt, Old Sew/Oceanview CCs
Suzanne LaFrance, Randy Sulte, Zac Johnson, Anchorage Assembly
Senior Captain Sean Fredenhagen and Captain Mark Stephens, Station 9