

MITCHELL J. LANDRIEU, MAYOR
CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

July 13, 2013

Terrence Knister
President, Hurstville Neighborhood Association
1202 Octavia Street
New Orleans, LA 70115

Dear Terri,

Thank you for meeting with me at City Hall and for hosting the Fire Chief at three public meetings to discuss Ladder 5. Although many advocates for Ladder 5 have studied the issue closely, there is unfortunately some misinformation. I hope you will help you will share these facts:

- The Arabella Fire Station will remain open. The station will continue to house a pump truck and a complement of four firefighters.
- The neighborhood will continue to receive excellent fire protection from this engine house. The pump truck and firefighters at Arabella Station will be the first to respond to the scene of a call and can reach homes and businesses in its service area in 4.5 minutes.
- Insurance Premiums will remain the same. The Property Insurance Association of Louisiana (PIAL) is the private, non-profit association which grades municipal areas in terms of fire protection capabilities. The "Public Fire Classification" for the City of New Orleans is a Class 2. Individual properties and geographic areas of the City of New Orleans do not receive different ratings based on their proximity to a fire station or a specific type of firefighting apparatus. The redeployment plan has been reviewed, and it will not change this classification or affect insurance rates.

Recently, you presented a proposal that recommends decommissioning Ladder 8 on Martin Luther King Boulevard instead of Ladder 5 at Arabella Station. I appreciate your effort to develop a solution, and I asked my fire experts to review it.

After careful consideration, it clear to me that it is not in the best interest of the City and does not make sense from a fire safety perspective to decommission Ladder 8 on Martin Luther King Boulevard. This ladder receives a high volume of calls for service and responds to areas of the city with the most fires. In contrast, Ladder 5 has a comparatively low volume of calls and services few fires. Attached please find maps and charts which demonstrate this fact.



As your Mayor, the most important part of my job is public safety. I make public safety decisions based on the data and what is in the best interest of the entire city. I cannot make these tough decisions based on political pressure. The redeployment plan, which calls for decommissioning Ladder 5, was developed as part of our ongoing effort to ensure we are using our assets in the most effective way to keep our city safe. This plan is based squarely on the data and was peer reviewed by third party fire experts.

As we announced in January and discussed in public meetings, Ladder 5 is being decommissioned this week. Although this is not the outcome you had hoped for, it is my sincere hope that we can continue to work together for the betterment of the City we all love. Thank you for your engagement on this issue.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mitchell", written in a cursive style.

Mitchell J. Landrieu
Mayor, City of New Orleans