

10/20/07 - FOSSP opposes current proposal for Public Safety Storage Facility

October 20, 2007

To: City Council

From: Friends of Sunset Park

Re: Oct. 23, 2007 agenda item 8-A

The Board of Directors of Friends of Sunset Park opposes the current staff recommendation for construction of a Public Safety Storage Facility for the Fire Department (referred to in the staff report as "Location A") in our neighborhood.

*The community has not had adequate notice and the opportunity to provide requisite input into this project.

*The community objects to the size, design and location of this project.

*The Airport Commission's unanimous recommendations opposing this project have not been followed.

*Any urgencies claimed for this project have been abated by the current use of the hanger at 3011 Airport Ave. as a public safety storage facility.

The Board of Friends of Sunset Park would like the following concerns addressed:

1. **The need for the LUCE update to include the 227-acre airport property, which would then require public input on the use of airport land.**
2. **The lack of follow-up on the Airport Commission's unanimous November 27, 2006 five-point resolution and recommendations to the City Council regarding the planned project** (reiterated in a January 8, 2007 letter to the City Council from Mark Young, Chair of the Airport Commission):
 - a. Prior to Airport Commission approval and City Council review, the proposed project should be subjected to additional public review by the Architectural Review Board and the Planning Commission.
 - b. It should be required that outside planning and design services are used for the project.
 - c. Detailed mitigation plans, including landscape drawings and specifications, should be provided.
 - d. Based on current information, the project appears too large for the site and insufficiently designed for its adjacency to the residential neighborhood.
 - e. The program should be analyzed for non-fire emergency related requirements that may be located elsewhere, such as Airport maintenance and long term storage.

3. Lack of discussion of alternative sites in the Airport or elsewhere (such as one of the M1 sections of the Industrial Lands area, which is more centrally located for emergency purposes for all of Santa Monica).
4. Lack of information on all of the proposed /projected uses for these storage sheds and an impact study on the neighborhood regarding traffic to and from these storage sheds, including use of noisy, polluting diesel vehicles on adjacent residential streets (**going past homes, Clover Park, and the play area at Hill 'n' Dale pre-school, located in the old Fire Station on 25th St.**) as these functions are implemented.
5. Inadequate assessment of the aesthetic impact of huge storage sheds looming over the neighborhood next to a well designed, moderately sized fire station.
6. Failure to meet the "Airport Building Development Review and Guidelines" (discussed by the Airport Commission on May 21, 2007 and June 25, 2007) or the draft "Santa Monica Airport Sustainability Initiative Overview" goals (reviewed by the Airport Commission on July 23, 2007, agenda item 6c).
7. Lack of a fair or meaningful public process in comparison to other projects throughout the city.

In conclusion, the Board of Friends of Sunset Park urges the City Council to reject the staff's current recommendations, directing staff to a) comply with the Airport Commission's recommendations, and b) address the neighborhood's concerns before returning to Council.