
firehouse #7

Posted by catskill grappler - 2008/04/13 07:55

I just stopped by our firehouse (#7) on Whitehouse st almost behind Capital City bank on Lee St. I was talking to the guys and they told me that they heard that the powers that be were going to shut the house down in June. We have to fight this tooth and nail. The firehouse does need alot of improvements but this is the oldest station in the City. The station is the busiest in the city also. I hear all the time that we have to protect the history of our beloved West End and if there is no better reason to band together and fight the closing of this station then I don't know what is. By the way the firemen love the old station and the history of it. I will be contacting Cleta, Mary norwood, kathy Ashe, Ceasar, the fire department, shirley Franklins office, H Lamar willis and any one else that can keep this station open. I ask everyone who hasn't been inside the station to go over and take a look inside. The guys don't mind. Please people help keep this beautiful building and its important function in the neighborhood open. I can be reached at 404 456 4118. I can get you the numbers of these politicians also.

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Re:firehouse #7

Posted by MJ662 - 2008/04/14 09:12

Are they planning to close it due to the need for repairs/ improvements? If so, are the necessary improvements general building stuff or technology improvements relating to a firehouse? If it's general building issues, maybe we can organize a neighborhood work day and show our support for the station.

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Re:firehouse #7

Posted by cubana - 2008/04/14 10:45

That is good I idea. John will get back to you on this.

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Re:firehouse #7

Posted by catskill grappler - 2008/04/14 13:36

I don't know the answer to the question to this but I think that is a great idea. I also think that having a monthly spaghetti dinner there would be great also. I have been to a couple of those before in my hometown. I just called cleta's office and told them about the closing in june. I will contact others.

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Re:firehouse #7

Posted by admin - 2008/05/09 12:11

Karen_FL_NC wrote:

My advice would be to approach this challenge from several fronts:

Where: Have these letters go to the Editor of the ACJ, to the City Commissioners, the City Manager and the radio and TV stations and any other local media. If you are going to have your 'Spaghetti dinner' and "Adopt A Fire Station" have the local TV station come out to tape the events. You want to have the footage air on the Noon news - when they tend to run human interest stories, on a Friday. Often they do not shoot other stories over the weekend, and your segment can get additional airtime the next morning and over the weekend news hours.

Some letters and interviews should sound 'official' They should spout response time statistics, Historic Designation ordinances, etc. and come from 'credentialed' people with Titles that represent groups of people. For example Carl "President of WEND Association", 'Head of the Historical Preservation Council of Atlanta', 'NPUT Chief Planner' (whatever the real names/Titles are of course). The principal of Brown Elementary school, (and the Head of the PTA) I am sure this school has a very large student population and needs "rapid response times in case of emergencies to save the lives of our children."

Some letters should be more personal, emotional, and heart tugging:

The pictures of the fire trucks drawn by the children and stories about their visit to the station. How the fire fighters taught them how to get out of a burning house, how to call 911, etc. Have the library get involved, saying how great Station 7 personnel were at the recent Library Fair.

Letters from any residents who have been helped by the Fire or Rescue services: i.e. "My grandmother is alive today because Rescue 7 arrived within 4 minutes when she was having a heart attack..." or "When my car was on fire in the driveway, my house would have been lost too, if the fire engine had not arrive so quickly..."

Have 'Handy' the Historic Designation gentleman present at the WEND meeting, go through Historic Preservation channels. He should emphasize that these Historic homes, are a vital part of the history of Atlanta, and are "irreplaceable" if they are lost in a fire.

Closing down Station #7 would result in much longer response times from the next closest station and the second incoming station. The quick arrival of both first and second responding units is essential to provide the water and manpower necessary to mount an aggressive interior attack and contain the fire to the room of origin or the house of origin. These homes are very close together. A delay in response times could tragically allow a fire in one home to spread to the exposures (houses) on either side, if there is a delay in response times.

These older homes are not built up to today's fire code standards and are especially vulnerable. No sprinkler systems present, such as are found in new homes, no fire stops in the walls, large attic spaces, etc. The high ceilings makes placement and effectiveness of smoke detectors more challenging putting lives at risk.

Then there is the issue of the Station itself being Historic, coming up on it's 100th anniversary date, "one of the oldest in the City". (The oldest???). How amazing that it is still standing and still a working fire station!

The gentleman from NPUT who lives in Skylofts should do the same - focus on how far away the next two closest fire stations are if #7 is closed down. Emphasize how traffic patterns would create even longer delays at certain times of day if a station were not in the WEND neighborhood.

Every letter, every interview should point to the same conclusion:

The critical life safety decision of where fire stations are located should be based on response times and service delivery criteria, NOT deferred maintenance problems!

Residents should choose a point of view that resonates with them, so their passion will come through in the letters they write. If it is saving your home, or protecting your children, or Rescues saving the lives of your loved ones. Residents can each write multiple letters targeted to the media to gain support, to politicians and the City Manager who make the decisions, to the Fire Chief, etc. Again, personal letters with emotional 'trigger' words are very powerful, in addition to the 'professional' letters spouting statistics and representing large (voting!) blocks of people.

You could also play the card that WEND is a less affluent, disadvantaged community and that is why they are shutting down your station, not one in an affluent neighborhood.

Emphasize that residents are working diligently to improve and revitalize this area that has been blighted by the mortgage fraud scandal. All of your efforts and momentum will be wasted if it looks like the City is abandoning the neighborhood. It will adversely impact your ability to bring businesses to the area, improve the property values (and increase the tax base...).

I know I jumped all over the place, but I hope this will give everyone some ideas of how to start this grassroots effort for this vital cause. Please e-mail me with any questions!

Karen

Re:firehouse #7

Posted by admin - 2008/05/09 12:12

MJ662 wrote:

We have started a group to help save historic firestation number 7 in West End. It is under consideration for closure by the city and it is important that we act now to save the oldest operating station in the city, and the primary responder to

west end. I have set up four teams to focus on various aspects of the project. Please let me know if you are interested in joining one of the teams to help out. If you don't have the time to be a team member, we will still be counting on you to write letters and make phone calls when the time comes.

Supporting Data

- Quantitative (Response time and other key statistics)
- Qualitative (historic district, old trees, depressed area unfairly targeted, etc)

Political Action

- Letter/emails
- Phone calls
- Public forums (i.e. council meetings, etc.)

Citizen Awareness

- West End Newsletter
- NPU presentations
- Letters to editors of local papers
- AJC articles

Direct Action (adopt the station)

- Spaghetti dinner
- Tour days
- Work day

Re:firehouse #7

Posted by admin - 2008/05/09 12:13

Cubana wrote:

Do you think we need a volunteer sign up on website?

Re:firehouse #7

Posted by intoeyes2001 - 2008/05/09 12:20

I put discussion regarding fire station (there were 3 threads regarding one issue) under one thread. Pleas don't create too many threads regarding one issue. Use Search Engine next time.

Re:firehouse #7

Posted by intoeyes2001 - 2008/05/10 18:00

Fire Station PIX

<http://flickr.com/search/?s=int&q=%22west+end%22+atlanta+fire+station&m=text>

Re:firehouse #7

Posted by catskill grappler - 2008/05/23 18:30

I have a meeting with our at large councilman Ceasar Mitchell tomorrow, saturday the 24th at 9:30am. I hope that many of you can attend the brief but very important meeting. If you haven't been there yet come on out. I have also asked It. Dawes who is, I believe, has a hand in giving out funding to certain stations around the city. He said he will also bring along the engineer to evaluate the building. I think this will be a great start to bringing #7 the oldest station in the city back to its original glory. By the way, the station will be 100 yrs old in 2010.

I had the honor of being asked by the Atlanta Fire Foundation head, Retired Chief Bill Rhodes, to attend their meeting. I got tons of info out of it. I will discuss we you all at a later date, in detail, what was discussed.

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Re:firehouse #7

Posted by VirtualM - 2008/07/11 15:14

Did our firestation just get shut down? I was watching TV and I saw a commercial for the news and something about the mayor's controversial decision to close a fire station and then a quick cut to what looked like station #7. I'm not sure if I'll be able to actually watch the news in an hour, but does anyone know?

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Re:firehouse #7

Posted by VirtualM - 2008/07/11 15:24

I'm pretty sure it's true - I can't link to the article I found because it keeps crashing my browser - it's on wsbradio.com Google it. Is there anything we can do at this point? Besides let them know that we are MAD????

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Re:firehouse #7

Posted by catskill grappler - 2008/07/11 18:16

I have gone down to the station and there were 3 news crews there. They have the intention to close OUR station #7 down by Monday. What a disrespect for our safety and health. I have been contacting people in the neighborhood about coming out tomorrow night at 7pm. I talked to a news reporter and he told me that if they get word that we are having a rally for support for our station then most of the news crews will be there. If we do not come out in a big number #7 is toast. Please Please Please come out and save the oldest operational, 100 years old in 2010, the 4th busiest in the city. This is really our only chance of telling the powers that be, that we are not going to tolerate our lives of our neighbors and loved ones to be put in jeopardy by a delay in response time.

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Re:firehouse #7

Posted by VirtualM - 2008/07/14 15:24

What's next? I am angry.

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Re:firehouse #7

Posted by cubana - 2008/07/20 10:17

This post was sent to WENDchat@yahoogroups.com. I know most of you don't subscribe to this group so I thought you should know that closing 7 was clearly political. John has more information on other stations around the Atlanta area. One of the stories he told me was that Mayor Franklin has two fire trucks serving her house that is manned by 5 firefighters. Everyone else has a fire station to man their home with three firemen on the truck.

John please correct me if I have the story wrong.

I hope all you received the email I send about the meeting at city hall. It will be in the council room starting at 12:30pm but get there before 1 pm if you would like to speak on the subject. I am in DC right now but will come back in time to make more posters. Does anyone know where the poster I made for the rally is?

PS a calling post will be done.

To: westviewcommunity@yahoogroups.com

I just wanted everyone to know that they are reassigning the truck from station 17 to station 14 along with the truck crew. Our station 17 will only be running the engine. This news just happened yesterday and has been announced to the public yet. The firefighters from station are trying to get me the email that announced this and i will post it so everyone can read it. So not only did they close station 7 in the west end now they are moving more of our firefighters and equipment.

Also, one of the firefighters told me that our Station 7 ran 4000 calls a year. Station 27, which is in Buckhead, and services the governors mansion, only runs 400 calls a year yet it remains open and station 7 was closed.

I will be posting the email as soon as i have it.

Please see Ceasar's comments

Posted by cubana - 2008/07/20 10:37

Greetings Vonda:

Thanks for encouraging our neighbors to show up in numbers on Monday. Community presence along with continued and consistent activism regarding this issue will be powerful and critical to any legislative success we may have.

I also appreciate your comments around the evolution of my plan for Monday. It is very important for folks to know that initiatives can make from their heads and mouths to the law books through the active listening and responsiveness of their legislators. Yes. The community spoke loud and clear that it wanted immediate action. I initially felt that immediate action without data would be an upside down approach. I made mention of the fact that I had prepared a memo last week to go to the fire chief asking some of the community's questions and requesting supporting data on the rationale for closing the station. I felt like legislation not properly vetting or supported by data would be premature and I conveyed that honest sentiment to the group. This situation has already been politicized by others and that's not really my style. I prefer to strategize and find thoughtful a game plan to reach a sustainable solution. HOWEVER, Cliff recommended a strategy which Ronald Lall helped m

e hone, that if presented properly, might appear a informed, thoughtful and reasonable. Although it is an inverted approach and might come off as being somewhat impetuous, it is not a bad approach - the situation is already heated and fast moving. So I agreed to act on it and I have since developed a legislative strategy I think will advance that approach. Just putting in a resolution requesting that the mayor open the station would be a waste of time and nothing more than placating - particularly where there is no supporting data. Thus, I will introduce an ordinance related to the closing and a resolution related to the issue of the data. The ordinance will be budget related and will require some executive compliance on the part of the Mayor to actually turn the lights back on at the station. The Resolution while carrying no force of law will take the place of the memo I prepared for the fire chief.

Please send this out to our neighbors and others for their continued food for thought so that I can get the benefit of any additional suggestions anyone may have.

Re:firehouse #7

Posted by cubana - 2008/07/20 13:00

I was reading post done in Westview's chat room.

Apparently, the city has plans (if funds are available) to build station #11. Why is this needed when they are closing 7. This just adds to my believe that the closing of 7 was done so that someone can get the land.

I know it cost more to build a station that to keep the old station open.

Re:firehouse #7

Posted by cubana - 2008/07/20 13:18

http://groups.google.com/group/save_7_coalition . This is a google group that was started. I have not check it out yet.

I would like everyone to know the westview is arm in arm with us on this fight.

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Re:firehouse #7

Posted by MJ662 - 2008/07/22 14:50

If you weren't able to make the council meeting yesterday, you can see video of it here:

<http://apps.atlantaga.gov/citycouncil/video.htm>

#3 is the speeches from citizens.

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Re:firehouse #7

Posted by VirtualM - 2008/07/22 16:31

Bravo, everyone - great points made by many. I regret that I couldn't make it to the meeting yesterday, but it's so hard to wrestle a 2-year-old at naptime and I'm not sure it would've helped any to have him screaming in the background. I'm so proud of our community.

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Re:firehouse #7

Posted by intoeyes2001 - 2008/09/24 13:57

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Council Communications

City Hall

55 Trinity Ave. SW

Atlanta, Ga 30303

Contact: Dexter Chambers, City Council Communications Director: 404-330-6309/404-392-0159

Thermice J. Bevelle, City Council Communications Specialist: 404-330-6823

Bruce Morton, City Council Communications Specialist: 404-330-6357

Date: September 17, 2008

The West End Merchant's Association, Capitol City Bank and 4th District Councilmember Cleta Winslow sponsor concert to benefit the renovations at Fire Station #7 on Saturday, October 4

ATLANTA – The West End Merchant's Association, Capitol City Bank and 4th District Councilmember Cleta Winslow are sponsoring a concert to benefit the renovations at Fire Station #7 on Saturday, October 4, 2008 at 7:00 pm. at the Wren's Nest Outdoor Concert Pavilion at 1050 Ralph David Abernathy Boulevard, S.W.

The featured entertainer will be trumpet player "Milkshake", a popular local jazz musician. The rain date is Sunday, October 5, 2008, also at 7:00 pm.

The station, located at 535 Whitehall Street in the West End, was closed earlier this summer by Mayor Shirley Franklin, who cited the City's budget deficit as the reason. However, the merchant's association made a commitment to the Mayor in 2007 to raise funds for Fire Station #7's restoration.

"In spite of its current status, the business and community organizations have decided to honor their pledge because of the tremendous growth in the West End area," said Councilmember Cleta Winslow. "There are 200 condos at Skyloft next

to the West End Mall, 954 new housing units Mechanicsville, three new senior citizen complexes with an additional 100 units for seniors planned in the Adair Park neighborhood, and 1,076 housing units at Collegetown on Lowery Boulevard, SW in the West End. In all, more than 2,000 new housing units within three to six blocks of Fire Station #7 are currently under construction. The business and residential groups in and around Fire Station #7 believe that we should honor our pledge by partnering with the City and help raise funds to renovate the station", said Councilmember Winslow.

Frank Simmons, President of the West End Business Association, and Commercial Loan Officer of Capitol City Bank, pointed out that, "Morehouse College is planning to build a \$23 million Performing Arts Center and The Atlanta University Center has purchased about 10 acres of land. AUC's boundaries have now expanded to Lee Street. Capitol City Bank which is headquartered in West End has future expansion plans for its property. Other developers who already own land in the West End are looking to expand their footprint with more housing units and improved retail.

The benefit concert will be the first of several events sponsored by various community and business groups in the upcoming year to provide funding for the renovation. Money raised during these events will go to the Atlanta Fire Foundation, which is a tax deductible 501(c) 3 non-profit charitable organization under the City of Atlanta's Fire Rescue Unit.

Concert tickets are \$25 each and tables of 10 are available for \$250. For more information, call Councilmember Winslow's office at (404) 330-6047.

Re:firehouse #7

Posted by West End Gardener - 2008/09/30 21:52

Save 7 Coalition Honors and Thanks Our Elected Representatives

Thursday, October 9
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
BBQ & Celebration
Fire Station 7, 535 Whitehall Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30310

On July 11, 2008 Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin announced she was closing historic Fire Station #7 in the West End, highlighting the inequitable distribution of services in the historic communities of Atlanta's South and West sides. Because closing the station would have a tremendous impact on public safety in both the Historic West End and Atlanta University Center communities, the Save #7 Coalition was created to organize efforts to reopen the fire station. Our resident City Council Representatives, Cleta Winslow (District 4) and Ceasar Mitchell (Post 1 At-Large), immediately joined the Save #7 Coalition and have worked tirelessly to undo the mayor's closing of Fire Station #7. At-Large Council Representative Mary Norwood also joined our Coalition, along with State Senator Vincent Fort, State Representative-Elect Rashad Taylor, and our Atlanta Public Schools Representative Khaatim El.

We appreciate the support and community engagement of these elected officials. And we are grateful to other members of City Council who steadfastly voted in favor of the legislative strategy to protect our families and our property by providing funding for adequate fire safety services - - equivalent to services offered in every other part of the City.

Please join us in celebrating the legislative accomplishments of our City Council on behalf of our Fire Station and our community. Even though these efforts have been thwarted by Mayor Franklin's refusal to obey the ordinance funding the fire station, it is clear that our City Council, and especially those elected representatives who have joined our Coalition, understand that public safety must be their first priority in responding to the many needs of the City.

The work is unfinished. But on October 9 we will recognize what already has been done.

Re:firehouse #7

Posted by intoeyes2001 - 2008/10/05 21:41

Great job guys!

http://www.myfoxtlanta.com/myfox/MyFox/pages/sidebar_video.jsp?contentId=7579951&version=1&locale=EN-US

Re:firehouse #7

Posted by intoeyes2001 - 2008/10/06 09:40

Thursday, October 9

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Fire Station 7

535 Whitehall Street

Atlanta, Georgia 30310

On July 11, 2008 Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin announced she was closing historic Fire Station #7 in the West End, highlighting the inequitable distribution of services in Atlanta's Southwest communities. The Save #7 Coalition was created to organize efforts to reopen the fire station.

City Council Representatives Clela Winslow (District 4) and Ceasar Mitchell (Post 1 At-Large) joined the Save #7 Coalition and have worked tirelessly to undo the mayor's closing of Fire Station #7. At-Large Council Representative Mary Norwood also joined the Coalition, along with State Senator Vincent Fort, State Representative-Elect Rashad Taylor, and Atlanta Public Schools Representative Khaatim El.

These elected officials, and other members of City Council, understand that public safety must be a high priority. City Council has steadfastly voted in favor of a legislative strategy to protect our families and our property by providing funding for adequate fire safety services - - equivalent to services offered in every other part of the City.

Please join us in celebrating the legislative accomplishments of our City Council on Thursday, October 9 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. We will enjoy music provided by The Elliot Holden Group, and food and beverages provided by Lotus Catering & Bakery and The Grounds Coffeehouse.

Support also provided by Georgia Stand-Up. See <http://georgiastandup.org/>

See www.elliioholden.com

See www.lotuscaterers.com

See <http://www.thegrounds-coffeehouse.com/>

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