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From: Choon James [choonjameshawaii@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2013 11:35 AM
To: Choon James

Subject: Re: FY2014 Budget Committee Hearings - Fire Department must set its priorities amidst city's perennial budgeting restraints

City Council FY 2014 Department Budget Hearings - Honolulu Fire Department

Aloha City Council Budget Chair Ann Kobayashi and city council members,

I'm responding to the 9:00 am presentation by the Fire Department. First of all, we're happy to hear new Fire Chief Neves and the new Department of Design and Department are open to alternative sites discussions.

We never intended it to be an adversarial relationship. In fact, that was the spirit of which I brought my sister's lot 64 to them. It's been decades that we've heard they are thinking of relocating the Hauula Fire Station. In my inexperience with city hall, I also trusted the Land Chief Miyata that the city would not force us to sell if we didn't want to.

Looking back, there were two paths of operations with the Land Division. While we were having friendly chats with the Land Chief, there is also another personnel who writes official letters that do not reflect the oral conversations and assurances given to us.

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Also, as a real estate broker, we are always open and in fact, encourage due diligence from interested parties. So I did not hesitate allowing the Land Chief to explore. Little did we know that we were being trapped into a rigid and overbearing process that would lead to condemnation of the properties if we did not cooperate. It's unfortunate that the public cannot even trust a government official.

I saw the presentation. As we surmised, it's the kuleana of DDC's Land Division to assist the Fire Department in this process. I can unequivocally state that the fire department has been provided with wrong or incomplete information. The Environmental Assessment process to fulfil HRS Chapter 343 was bungled and flawed. Many Hauula residents feel that if this project were in Kahala or Diamond Head, they would be more cognizant.

In fact, the consultant himself told me that he was only instructed to do the EA on the two pre-selected lot. As only mentioned by Land Chief Miyata, Lot 3 was not considered.

It's noteworthy to state that the top favorite site for the Hauula Fire Station relocation site was a 1.65 acre BEACHFRONT lot at 54-337 Kam Hwy across the Papa Ole' eatery. The acreage behind the existing HFS

was discussed briefly but dropped because of a weak statement about ingress and egress. The Hauula Fire Station has yet to record an accident with the fire trucks going in and out of Kam Hwy.

It's also noteworthy to state that DDC did not consider this relocation an urgent necessity because it also acts when a resident throws a suggestion their way.

The Hanaimoa site, a five-acre state land between Hauula Homestead Rd and Hanaimoa Street was suggested. But early on, there was obvious red flags. The Board of Water has its water plant close by and it was known that Board of Water Administrative Rules prohibit any waste water systems within 1000 feet. This site was in violation by 300 feet as noted in the EA. Despite preliminary knowledge of this, the EA was processed. We were told EA has a minimal cost of \$50K.

Additionally, the EA violated the core requisite of consulting with HRS Chapter 343. The residents were not consulted. Uncle Marvin Iseke who lives next to this property collected 200 signatures and the project was mothballed.

The comments by Chief Neves about DDC's apply

science and high standards to lot selection is plausible. Unfortunately, the process related to the HFS relocation is a classic example of bureaucratic arrogance and bungling.

We enclose the youtube to show Land Chief does not even know the basic distance between fire station.

Unfortunately, this process went this way.

1. In the spirit of helpfulness, I made known the sale of my sister's property to them.
2. This site became the "ideal" site. But this is status quo because every site is quoted as the "ideal site".
3. The statement about Lot 63 (that they refused to explore) not having another point of entry like Kawaipuna is flat wrong. Lot 63 has a deed easement next to the Hauula Shopping Center. The road easement is not busy and far away from the Pre-school and residential homes and the busy Kawaipuna subdivision street.

At this point, we would like to ask the City Council to continue to delete and defund this project.

Let's do it the pono way. The affected residents would love to meet with the fire department and DDC and work out a win-win solution for the community. These last two commercial lots are very precious to Hauula's

business prosperity. There was many local small business asking for opportunities, including the Ko'olauloa health center. The existing Reynolds Recycling Center has no where else to relocate to. These are tax revenues for the city. To simply decimate these two last remaining country business lots is anti-business and anti-community. The city spent millions of dollars hosting APEC to encourage business and yet it cannot support its own local entrepreneurs?