



## City of Homer

[www.cityofhomer-ak.gov](http://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov)

## Volunteer Fire Department

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## Memorandum

TO: Public Safety Building Committee  
THROUGH: Renee Krause, CMC, Deputy City Clerk  
FROM: Robert Painter, Fire Chief  
DATE: May 19, 2014  
SUBJECT: Building Site Selection

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I have been giving the idea of attempting to construct the new Public Safety Building on the existing lot some serious consideration since the last meeting. I offer the following for your review and consideration as well.

### **Advantages:**

1. Known site characteristics
2. No potential impacts to ISO due to travel distance changes
3. Access to Pioneer

### **Disadvantages/Concerns:**

1. Impacts to operations during construction if attempted between existing structures.
  - a. Parking for responders during calls
  - b. Parking for recruits during training
  - c. Relocation of storage cones and other equipment stored on the lot while still maintaining usefulness
  - d. 2 apparatus (Medic 1 and Utility 3) use the rear access for response and would require enough room to negotiate the corners.
2. If the station is vacated/relocated during construction
  - a. Demolition of a building that is still viable and usable in another configuration either by another city department or sold for commercial value. While the HERC buildings are obsolete and costly to operate, the existing fire station is the more usable building for sale or repurposing.
  - b. Relocation of apparatus and personnel for an extended time (estimated to be 18 months) during construction would be difficult to find suitable accommodations for staff and apparatus without incurring substantial costs for leased space and facilities.

- c. 24/7 staffing of the station would require temporary quarters be maintained in a building approved and permitted for overnight occupancy, i.e. environmental controls, fire alarm system/smoke detectors, shower/lavatory, kitchen facilities.
- d. During the construction at least 2 recruit classes would need to find suitable facilities, nearby or included in the temporary station, for up to 20 students, as well as facilities for weekly shift changes and training of existing volunteers. Training activities could not be curtailed during the construction phase of the project.

### **Conclusions:**

1. The disruptions to both the fire department and police department during construction, though surmountable, are both costly and time consuming.
2. The plan will either require the fire station to be “temporarily” relocated, or will result in serious interruptions during construction to both routine and emergency operations. Either way, the end result will require the demolition of one of the most viable buildings of those located on potential sites for the new Public Safety Building.
3. The costs of operating the HERC site, regardless of whether or not it is selected as the preferred building site of the Public Safety Building, are a continual drain on tax-payers, with the end result being the building will either require a substantial renovation or demolition.
4. Cost-containment should be a motivating factor in the site selection.
5. I recommend that the existing police and fire department lots be eliminated from consideration.