

February 25, 2025

EAST LAKE TARPON SPECIAL FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT 3375 Tarpon Lake Blvd. Palm Harbor, FL 34685 727-784-8668 fax: 727-474-5830 www.elfr.org

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS Randy Burr Maryellen Crowder Jim Downes Kevin Kenney Mike Peasley

PUBLIC FACILITIES ANNUAL NOTICE OF CHANGE AS REQUIRED BY CHAPTER 189.08

Background: The East Lake Tarpon Special Fire Control District provides this information to assist in the development of comprehensive plans and to foster coordination between the District, Palm Harbor Special Fire Control District, City of Oldsmar, City of Tarpon Springs, City of Dunedin, City of Safety Harbor, and The County of Pinellas.

As required by Chapter 189.08 F.S., the *East Lake Tarpon Special Fire Control District* provides the following:

(1) **Requirement:** A description of existing public facilities owned or operated by the special district, and each public facility that is operated by another entity, except a local general-purpose government, through a lease or other agreement with the special district.:

<u>Station 56</u> – 1933 East Lake Road, Palm Harbor, Florida 34685 Legal Description: EAST LAKE FIRE AND RESCUE LOT 1 Parcel Number: 04-28-16-23917-000-0010 Year Built: 1998 Heated Square Feet: 3,680 Gross Square Feet: 6,369 Land Area: 1.19 acres Just Market Value 2024: \$906,908

Station #56 provides fire protection, fire prevention, and advanced life support emergency medical service to the District and neighboring communities through automatic aid agreements and "closest unit response determinants". The District is an active participant in the surrounding fire service delivery systems through an automatic aid agreement and operates an Advanced Life Support Fire Suppression Unit at station 56, defined within the Pinellas County fire community as an Engine. This unit is staffed 24 hours a day and seven days a week with a minimum of three full-time paid professional Florida certified firefighters. The District strives to staff the Engine with one lieutenant, one driver-engineer, and one firefighter. One of the three positions is required to be credentialed as a Pinellas County Certified Paramedic.

The current facility used to operate Station #56 is owned by the District. The station location is mid-line in the district providing services in an optimal location for the southern area of the fire district. The District has no plan to remodel, replace, or move this facility for safety or mission improvement in the near future.

Station 57 – 3375 Tarpon Lake Boulevard, Palm Harbor, Florida 33685

Legal Description: PT OF NE 1/4 OF SEC 33 & PT OF SE 1/4 OF SEC 28 DESC BEG AT PNT ON N LINE OF SEC 33 & E R/W OF LAKE TARPON BLVD TH N01DW 57.48 FT TH N89DE 550FT TH S01DE 316.8FT TH S89DW 550FT TH N01DW 259.32FT TO POB CONT 4.01AC(C) Parcel Number: 33-27-16-00000-110-0200 Year Built: 2007 Heated Square Feet: 7,698 Gross Square Feet: 12,733 Land Area: 3.99 acres Just Market Value 2024: \$2,363,817

Station #57 provides fire protection, fire prevention, and advanced life support emergency medical service to the District and neighboring communities through automatic aid agreements and "closest unit response determinants". The District is an active participant in the surrounding fire service delivery systems through an automatic aid agreement and operates a full-time Division Chief in a response vehicle, an Advanced Life Support Fire Suppression Unit at station 57, defined within the Pinellas County fire community as an Engine with Squad capabilities, and a Rescue unit with two firefighter/paramedics. The division chief and Squad units are staffed 24 hours a day and seven days a week with a minimum of one command officer staffing the division chief unit and three full-time paid professional Florida certified firefighters on Squad 57. The District strives to staff the Squad with one lieutenant, one driver-engineer, and one firefighter. One of the three positions is required to be credentialed as a Pinellas County Certified Paramedic. The Rescue unit, Rescue 57, is staffed episodically based on personnel availability for day-to-day operations. In addition, Rescue 57 is staffed with overtime personnel operating as a Training and Coverage (TAC) unit providing district coverage when needed for community emergency response. District services are managed by administrative staff and support personnel out of this station.

Station #57 is owned by the District and is in a sub-optimal location for emergency response to the central area of the fire district due to the fact that the facility is located about one and a half minutes west of the district mid-line. The District has no plan to move this facility for emergency response improvement in the near future. Further, the District has no plan to remodel or replace this facility for safety or mission improvement in the near future.

<u>Station 58</u> – 3280 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs, Florida 34688

Legal Description: FROM SE SEC COR TH N89DW 904.54FT FOR POB TH N89DW 449.74FT TH N20DE 118,16FT TH N44DE 86.2FT TH N39DE 65.19FT TH N45DE 65.57FT TH CUR RT RAD 208FT ARC 50,11FT CB S85DE 49.99FT TH N12DE 4FT TH CUR LT RAD 2914.79FT ARC 220.18FT CB S80DE 220.13FT TH S01DW 238.3FT TO POB CONT 2.27AC (C) Parcel Number: 10-27-16-00000-440-0600 Year Built: 1993 Heated Square Feet: 3,716 Gross Square Feet: 6,500 Land Area: 2.25 acres Just Market Value 2024: \$999,008

Station #58 provides fire protection, fire prevention, and advanced life support emergency medical service to the District and neighboring communities through automatic aid agreements and "closest unit response determinants". The District is an active participant in the surrounding fire service delivery systems through an automatic aid agreement and operates an Advanced Life Support Fire Suppression Unit at station 58, defined within the Pinellas County fire community as an Engine, along with a Water Tender (Water 58), and wildland fire suppression unit (Brush 58). The Engine 58 unit is staffed 24 hours a day and seven days a week with a minimum of three full-time paid professional Florida certified firefighters. The District strives to staff the

Engine with one lieutenant, one driver-engineer, and one firefighter. One of the three positions is required to be credentialed as a Pinellas County Certified Paramedic. Both Water 58 and Brush 58 are cross staffed with Engine 58 personnel. Water 58, a Type 2 Water Tender, serves the District and greater Pinellas County moving large amounts of water to support fire suppression activities. Brush 58, a Type 5 Wildland Brush Truck, serves the District and greater Pinellas County protecting 8,000 acres of the Brooker Creek Preserve and suppression efforts for wildland fires that pose significant threats to people, property, and natural landscapes in Pinellas County.

Station #58 is owned by the District and is in a sub-optimal location for emergency response to the north area of the fire district due to the fact that the facility is located about 45 seconds east of the District mid-line.

Further, the facility, constructed in 1993, is nearing the end of its service life. Typically, fire stations have a service life of 40-50 years; however, station 58 is experiencing structural issues that are too costly and impractical to repair, requiring the District to consider significant remodeling or fire station replacement earlier than expected. Primarily, regarding the station structural issues, is the east wall of station 58, which was constructed with metal studs and an Exterior Insulation Finishing System (EFIS) instead of concrete block. The safety threat regarding this EFIS and metal stud construction is repetitive mold issues at the fire station. Previous flooding due to EFIS failure caused water damage, prolonged humidity, and dampness all leading to increased risk for mold and health problems for firefighters. The District safety committee conducted indoor air quality testing at station 58 when firefighters experienced nasal stuffiness, sneezing, and coughing symptoms in previous years along with an isolated report of pneumonia. Mold and dust were found during testing and the District mitigated the issue with a contracted professional.

In addition to the structural issue identified above, the current facility lacks firefighter safety mechanisms (NFPA 1500), does not have appropriate gender-specific facilities for female firefighters, and the location is sub-optimal to serve the East Lake community.

The District is working diligently to determine if station 58 should be renovated or relocated mid-line in the north end of the District. The tentative plan is to have this remodel or relocation initiated in FY 2030.

(2) **Requirement:** A description of each public facility the district is building, improving, or expanding, or is currently proposing to build, improve, or expand within at least the next 7 years, including any facilities that the district is assisting another entity, except a local general-purpose government, to build, improve, or expand through a lease or other agreement with the district:

Station #58 is owned by the District. This fire station was built in 1993 and tentatively will be remodeled or relocated to a mid-line District location beginning FY 2030 to serve as a long-term essential facility for the East Lake community and the Pinellas County Fire and EMS System.

There are preliminary efforts underway to renovate Station #58 at its current location or relocate Station #58 to the vicinity of East Lake Road and Keystone Road. This effort will continue, in collaboration with our neighboring fire and EMS providers, Pinellas County Leaders, and State Elected Officials to remodel or relocate the Station #58 essential service facility.

The District is not currently helping another entity build, improve, or expand through a lease agreement.

(3) **Requirement:** For each public facility identified, the report shall describe how the district currently proposes to finance the facility:

Station #58: The changes listed above may require land acquisition and construction. The financing is

projected to be supported through District committed reserves, public-private partnerships, Pinellas County funding sources, and/or state appropriations. At this time, the District has about \$1.5 Million in committed reserves for the Station #58 remodel or relocation project. The District will be pursuing additional funding to offset the costs of this project, as the estimated market price of the Station #58 relocation is about \$10 Million.

(4) **Requirement:** If the special district currently proposes to replace any facilities identified in paragraph (a) or paragraph (b) within the next 10 years, the date when such facility will be replaced:

The anticipated time frame to remodel or relocate Station #58 has not been determined.

(5) **Requirement:** The anticipated time the construction, improvement, or expansion of each facility will be completed:

It is projected that the Station #58 remodel or relocation will be completed within the next 10 years.

(6) <u>Requirement:</u> The anticipated capacity of and demands on each public facility when completed. In the case of an improvement or expansion of a public facility, both the existing and anticipated capacity must be listed:

Through a comprehensive evaluation of current Station 58's functionality, safety, and compliance with current standards, the facility is at the end of its service life and requires a remodel or relocation to support the needs of the East Lake community and the Pinellas County Fire/EMS System. The District aims to remodel or relocate Station #58 to effectively support the fire protection, fire prevention, and advanced life support emergency medical service needs of the community taking into account adequate space, safety concerns, efficient operations, community growth, technology, community input, remodel/relocation options, and budget constraints for the project. The fire station is an essential service facility and will be constructed with a projected 50-year life span.

The current staffing capacity for station 58 is four (4) firefighters and the apparatus bay can accommodate up to four (4) fire suppression/EMS vehicles. The anticipated facility capacity has not been determined at this time.

Report complete.

Ker MI Kevin Kenney, Chair

2-25-2025

Kevin Kenney, Chair O Date Approved East Lake Tarpon Special Fire Control District Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Katy Cunningham, Office Administrator

 cc: Administrator – Palm Harbor Special Fire Control District Clerk – City of Tarpon Springs Clerk – City of Oldsmar Clerk – City of Safety Harbor Clerk – City of Dunedin Clerk – Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners



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