

March 10, 2016 Fire Station 8 Task force, public comments, by Nancy Williams

I have two points to make tonight.

#1 Data collection.

I thought this 2015 map was a visual representation of the 2015 emergency incidents and response times from the spreadsheet. But not one firebox incident count or time match up. for example, on the map, firebox 802 has 155 incidents listed and on the spreadsheet, box 802 has 127.

Box 812 on the map has 45 incidents, on the spreadsheet box 812 has 30 incidents. And on and on, a mismatch of data.

Task force members please note, that on pg 4 of the 2012 TriData report they stated: "The initial analysis of incident and CAD data revealed that the data provided was incorrect, mostly because of records management issues."

So it appears to me that Arl cty is still struggling with accurate data collection and reporting within emergency services.

Onto point #2. Arl cty government appears to be a stove piped organization.

Why is that that map and spreadsheet differ? Could it be that two different depts within arl cty created them and did not work together?

It is possible that you also have come to the same unfortunate realization that I have come to about our local gov't. It is a stovepiped organization.

I mention this to you in the hopes that you will include this concern in the final report that will be presented to the county board. With 2 new county board members hopefully they will listen to that concern. And maybe decide that spending 14 million dollars on a new fire station is not the needed solution.

Here are some examples of why I believe Arl cty is having a difficult time improving their emergency reponse times due to a stove piped organization.

Back in june 2014, the former Arl cty fire chief presented the findings of the 2012 TriData study to the Arl cty board members. it was a televised presentation.

During that presentation, the former fire chief omitted the recommendations that the tridata group had offered up as a cost-effective means of improving response times.

Well that concerned me greatly. Personally I as an Arl cty taxpayer was not happy to realize that my taxpayer dollars are being used to fund consultants fees and then when the findings are presented to the decision-makers, in our case, the Arl cty board, those potential cost-saving recommendations are left out.

Could it be that the recommendations were not presented because it would have meant engaging with the office of emergency mgmt staff?

it seems to me that if that is true then the stovepiping starts at the top.

The answers to the task force questions are very telling and indicative of further stovepiping. One TF member asked if there were any plans or commitments made to any community group in regards to the land at old dominion dr and N 26th St.

The reply was: "we are still confirming if any have been made, etc." I was somewhat flabbergasted when I read their non-chalant response.

Because just a scant 8 months ago last july, the CB chaired by Mary Hynes, in a Newsroom released announcement, pledged to create at least a one- acre park on that land for the Old Dominion Citizens Assoc. Not to go into a lengthy story but ODCA has been asking Arl cty for a park for many, many years.

Anyway, I contacted Noah and he quickly corrected the response to that question on-line.

Another task force member asked: has Arl cty made any improvements to the call processing activities, as recommended in the tri data report? The answer: "call processing times should be addressed by OEM". That is a frustrating response that further illustrates a stove piped organization.

I understand that the traffic division maintains the traffic control signals which allows the fire and rescue trucks to drive through traffic.

So when a task force member asked: how are the fire and rescue traffic bypass signals maintained and is there an upgrade planned? I would have hoped for more than the one-word response that was provided, which was: "Forthcoming". There's another stove pipe.

If you agree with me that you have observed these types of siloed or stove piped responses or issues, please include those concerns in your report, perhaps in the Executive Summary.

Because how can Arl cty continue to provide a public safety service to its citizens that cuts across several departments, but not be willing to work with one another to improve the process?