

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: MAY 3, 2001
TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL
FROM: PHILIP SUNDERLAND, CITY MANAGER *PS*
SUBJECT: INSTALLATION OF TWO ACTUATED FLASHING YELLOW WARNING LIGHTS FOR FIRE STATION #205 ON CAMERON STREET

ISSUE: Consideration of the installation of two actuated flashing yellow warning lights for Fire Station #205 located on Cameron Street.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council approve the installation of two actuated flashing yellow warning lights on each side of Cameron Street, just west of the intersection of Cameron Street and Fayette Street, for Fire Station #205 located at 1210 Cameron Street.

DISCUSSION: Under Section 10-2-7(3) of the City Code, City Council must approve the installation of all electronically operated signals or devices.

The Alexandria Fire Department has requested that actuated flashing yellow warning lights be installed near Fire Station #205, on each side of Cameron Street, just west of the intersection of Cameron and Fayette Streets, to assist fire trucks and vehicles entering or exiting the station. The flashing yellow warning lights would operate only when fire trucks and vehicles are entering or exiting the station. The flashing yellow warning lights would be actuated by a device that is similar to a garage door opener, and would be installed in the Fire Station and on the fire truck. Presently, a volunteer or fire station employee physically directs traffic to allow fire trucks and vehicles to enter and exit the station.

Flashing yellow warning lights are traditionally installed in mid-block urban locations such as Fire Station 205 which is located mid-block between Fayette and Payne Street. Fire stations that are located adjacent to an intersection with a traffic signal have an fire preemption phase in the traffic signal controller that automatically stops the traffic to allow the fire trucks to enter and exit safely.

If approved, staff would attach a "Fire Equipment Entering/Exiting When Flashing" sign to the flashing yellow warning light to alert motorists that a fire truck or vehicle is entering or exiting the station.

Staff spoke with the Inner City Civic Association President, who is aware of the request and did not present any objection.

FISCAL IMPACT: If approved, the \$4,000 cost of the actuated flashing lights would be shared equally by Transportation and Environmental Services and the Fire Department. Funding for the signal and flashing lights is included in the FY 2001 approved budget for traffic control projects.

STAFF: Richard J. Baier, P.E., Director, Transportation & Environmental Services
Thomas Hawkins, Fire Chief