

# Platform Issue #1- Why was the safety of the residents in the west end of the city not a priority?

When I first got on city council I created what was then called the Safe City Campaign. Part of that included creating the Mayors Youth Advisory, implementing our city staff to receive CPTED training. That is Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design. I am certified Level 2 Advanced, and I organized two very successful Tourism Crime Prevention Conferences bringing experts from all over the world including FBI instructors from Quantico.

Since then I went back to college to become certified in Emergency Management and Crisis Communication, so public safety, and that of all the residents is very important to me.

In July of 2015 I was very happy to support the \$1.5 million purchase of a piece of land at 8530 Lundy's Lane, that passed unanimously, for construction of a new fire station to begin the following spring of 2016. The new fire station was to serve all the new development taking place in the west end.

This was to be the seventh fire station in the city. It was needed because the response time from the existing fire stations to this area was beyond the standard REQUIRED four minutes or less response time. The goal of the new station was to reduce that response time. A station location study paid for by the city in 2012 identified the need for this new station. The council also approved the architecture and design study phase. I believe this was a good use of public money and would help keep the families and businesses in the new west end as safe as they should be.

I was very surprised and alarmed when in Feb, 2017 out of the blue, with no explanation the council voted to halt the building of the new fire station and vote to spend more of your money to hire ANOTHER consultant to decide when/if to build this new fire station.

I am the only one who voted against halting this fire station and debated that we had a study that proved to us that the safety of the residents in the west end would be better served building this station as approved. I asked why, all of a sudden it was no longer a good idea?

There really were no new reasons that had not been addressed in the 2012 study. Council had all the sufficient data and information needed to prove a new fire station was needed on Lundy's Lane. That is why we unanimously supported it at the time.

The area has only grown bigger during the 2 years the project had been approved until it was halted with thousands of new families moving into the area. Not to mention 3 elementary schools. Building this much needed fire station should have been a no brainer.

We did not need another study or more statistical information.....we had all that when we voted the first time. If any council member questioned the validity of the information they should have done so then and voted against the project. But none did.

The whole issue and new decision was purely political and with no solid details as to why the new station was being cancelled. There was a question of whether we should even be spending millions of dollars based on a four year old study?

My answer to that would be a very loud YES!

This same council spent \$11 million to purchase land surrounding the proposed South Niagara Hospital without a blink and many unanswered questions. Land that **may not** be needed for at least 20 years. I voted against spending that money until we at least had a shovel in the ground and were sure it was going to be built....but a fire station that had been approved gets put on hold now for 18 months, putting the safety of families in that area at continued risk.

The families that live in that quickly growing area deserve that fire station and pay for it with their taxes. Their lives, literally, may depend on it. Investing in the safety of families should be a greater priority than investing in empty, useless land. It is to me.

See articles below.

<https://www.niagarafallsreview.ca/news-story/8181357-new-fire-hall-on-the-lane/>

<https://www.niagarafallsreview.ca/news-story/8192818-consultant-to-review-timing-for-new-fire-station/>

<https://www.niagarafallsreview.ca/news-story/8192819-firefighters-union-questions-need-for-another-study/>

<https://www.niagarathisweek.com/news-story/3267185-new-fire-station-recommended-for-falls/>