



March 7, 2016

Indianapolis Fire Department Chief Ernest Malone
555 North New Jersey Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Chief Malone,

Thank you for contacting the Butler-Tarkington Neighborhood Association ("BTNA") about appearing at our neighborhood meeting on March 14, 2016 to discuss the IFD's redeployment plan, which includes plans to close IFD Station 16. Since the announcement last week releasing details of the plan, BTNA has heard from many residents about their concerns with the prospect of closing Station 16 and having to rely upon stations located miles away. We wanted to make these concerns known to you in advance of the upcoming meeting.

BTNA and other local groups are dedicated to improving the neighborhood's public safety, and we have recently dedicated significant time and energy to this issue. With that in mind, the announcement that first responders are vacating our neighborhood feels like a setback. We sincerely value the presence of the IFD in the Butler-Tarkington neighborhood and are grateful to the men and women of the Fire Department for their sacrifice and service.

We also have serious reservations about moving the fire engine out of our neighborhood and relocating it to IFD Station 32. Station 32 is located in a congested commercial district and does not have easy access to major thoroughfares. Presumably, for the engine to arrive in the northern part of our neighborhood from Station 32, it would have to follow Westfield Boulevard, which experiences frequent congestion and does not have shoulders for traffic to pull onto and let emergency vehicles pass. Conversely, Station 16 is located on Illinois Street and has easy access to Midtown's major streets.

BTNA understands that budgetary factors are driving this decision. We are eager to hear from you about the data your office examined in reaching the conclusion that our neighborhood will not be negatively impacted by Station 16's closure. However, although such data might demonstrate that runs to our neighborhood will continue to arrive within national standards, for the reasons expressed we have concerns with the plan. Thank you for your service as IFD Chief. We look forward to hosting you on March 14.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Clark P. Kirkman". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Clark P. Kirkman
President - Butler-Tarkington Neighborhood Association
btnapresident@gmail.com

cc:

The Honorable Joe Hogsett, Mayor
The Honorable Colleen Fanning, City-County Council District 2
The Honorable Joe Simpson, City-County Council District 7