

Cyndie Martel

From: donald ahrens <donaldahrens@att.net>
Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2025 3:19 PM
To: CouncilAll
Cc: Bruce Selfridge
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Ross Fire Dept closure of FIRE STATION
Attachments: 2-13-2025 Letter to Ross Town Council.docx

Letter is attached.

Thanks in advance for reading.

Don Ahrens

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110 Wisteria Circle

Cloverdale, CA 95425

February 13, 2025

Ross Town Council

Ross, CA

Dear Members of the Ross Town Council,

For members who don't remember me, my name is Don Ahrens, and I was the former owner of Eddie's, also known as the Ross Grocery, for 27 years. I lived in the house that adjoined the store for over 20 years. My father, Eddie, and his brother, Robert, bought the store in 1946. Both grew up in Ross, in the house my grandfather built the house at 12 Sir Francis Drake Blvd. in Ross in 1916. I owned the store with my father since 1983, and like him, I was a volunteer firefighter for over 20 years with the Ross Fire Department. I was promoted to captain in 1979 and received training and advanced incident command system training from now-retired Chief Bill Lellis.

I am writing to you regarding the recent developments concerning the closure of the fire station in Ross. It is my belief that this decision is not in the best interests of the town. I understand that the expenses of building a structure to house paramedics and a fire engine company are high, but I urge the town to reexamine this option.

I believe the town is being pressured by the Ross Valley Fire District to close the station without **fully** understanding all the ramifications involved for the services being rendered to the town of Ross. You are being asked to accept an average 10-minute response time for fires and medical calls. In my opinion this is UNACCEPTABLE! I have spent numerous hours researching this issue, going back through old Ross Valley Fire Department board meetings and Ross Town Council meetings. I urge you to please reconsider this decision.

PS Hi Elizabeth and Julie. I remember you and your children and always enjoyed seeing you and your families in the store,

Sincerely,
Don Ahrens