



## Time to Redistribute resources

To all concerned:

Palo Alto provides 24/7 staffing at Stanford's Fire Station. **That constitutes five firefighters, night and day, for a total of 16 positions.** Palo Alto also gives Stanford a fire engine and a fire truck. **It is time to bring it ALL back home to Palo Alto!**

Fire Station 4 in south Palo Alto has been closed for four years, not because we don't have an engine, but because there are no firefighters to staff it.

Even if a small part of Stanford is within the city limits of Palo Alto, why do we give their on campus fire station an over abundance of resources? When I ask that question of the powers that be, I am told, "Oh. well. Stanford has a contract with Palo Alto; the University pays a fee. "

Well, the residents of south Palo Alto also have a contract and also pay a fee. We have the contract of citizens with our government to protect us from fire. The fee we pay is the hundreds of millions of dollars from the very, very large tax base of south Palo Alto, poured into the city coffers.

If it is true, as City Manager Shikadas said at the City Council meeting two weeks ago, that it costs a half a million dollars to support one firefighter position, then Stanford is

getting a bargain, paying 20% of the city's PAPD cost but receiving redundant, overly abundant fire protection.

Stanford contracts with the Menlo Park fire department to serve the SLAC Fire Station 7. Might they add the Stanford campus coverage to their contract with Menlo Park, which has an abundance of well staffed, happy firefighters who work little mandatory overtime, in contrast with the understaffed skeleton crew of the PAFD? Stanford has redundant fire protection in that two Palo Alto fire stations outside the campus also provide coverage, as does the Menlo Park station via reciprocal agreement. Stanford's fire protection will continue.

The Philz fire on Middlefield had an 8 minute, 20 second response time from the Barron Park Fire Station. The Mitchell Park Library alarm response time was over six minutes. ***If Fire Station 4 had been open, the response times would have been a minute, and less-than-a- minute respectively.*** Philz is five short blocks from FS4; the Mitchell Library is in the ***same block*** as Fire Station 4.

Please don't insult us by telling us we are just as safe with a response from engines which are miles away, across railroad tracks with trains frequently crossing. Fire doubles every thirty seconds; every second counts! **Fire Station 4 must be fully staffed with ten firefighters, as the firefighters themselves recommend for our safety.**

Mr. Shikada, bring Palo Alto's fire fighters HOME. Assign them to Fire Station 4. **Our children in the 12 schools surrounding FS4 are deserving of a one minute response.**

CeCi Kettendorf

45-year resident of South Palo Alto