



# VILLAGE OF VIOLETVILLE, INC.

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July 2nd, 2020

Dear Mayor Jack Young,

We first would like to thank you for your contributions and commitment to our city and communities. In reviewing your 2021 Budget we have a major concern with the intent to close **Engine 55 1229 Bush St.**, and Engine 4 1201 E. Coldspring Ave. Our community will be directly impacted in the closure of **Engine 55**, however, Engine 4 is included as we are still close enough to be impacted with their closure as well. We understand the impact that the coronavirus pandemic continues to have on our economy and lives, and that some difficult decisions must be made, but we all should have also learned a lesson in the importance of being proactive and not solely reactive. The closure of **Engine 55** will place our community, investments, dwellings, and lives in a more vulnerable situation during these already difficult times. In addition to the relevant key points that the BCF Union, City Council and other community leaders have validated, we would like you to also consider a few more concerning the communities in which **Engine 55 serves**;

- An increase in *fire related loss/damage and fatalities*
- Increased use of *illegal fireworks and explosives* within, but not limited to our neighborhoods
- Already *delayed response times* due to traffic, distance, close-knit locations, staffing & support, etc.
- In many cases they are still the *first responders to the locations of emergency*
- Increase in *trash, vehicular, house and building fires* due to accidental, mechanical malfunctions and *arson*.
- How they assist with *drills and much needed awareness and safety* to our schools/scholars/youth and businesses.

In closing, we ask that you please keep **Engine 55 open**, and again emphasize the importance of being proactive, not adding more strain to, nor placing the citizens of Baltimore in an even more vulnerable position, especially when there are other areas that can be defunded which would have a much less negative overall impact.

Warmest Regards,  
Board Members of Village of Violetville, Inc.