

Date: Tue, 06 Jul 2021 01:03:52 -0400
Subject: Thorndike Place - Questions about Future Emergency Response

Deputy Chief Melly,

The Zoning Board of Appeals is nearing the end of its review of the proposal for the Thorndike Place development. This project includes 12 residential units in six duplex houses on Dorothy Road and a 124 unit independent living apartment building accessed via a single entry at the corner of Dorothy Road and Littlejohn Street. The ZBA has several questions about this type of development, and the specifics regarding this location in particular. We are hoping you can address these questions for us. I have attached a site plan for your reference.

1. What is the typical number of emergency calls to residential housing in Arlington in a given year? We are trying to understand the baseline for calls to the neighborhood.
2. What is the typical number of emergency calls to the various senior living facilities in Arlington? We are trying to understand what the expected frequency of emergency visits to the neighborhood could be.
3. Both Dorothy Road and Littlejohn Street have a 40 ft. right-of-way, but the paved streets are only 25 ft. curb-to-curb. Are town emergency vehicles able to navigate these streets with vehicles parked on both sides of the street? We assume that they are able to get by vehicles parked along only one side of the street.
4. Do emergency vehicles approach the site of reported calls with their sirens engaged? Is there a specific policy?
5. What delays could be expected if an emergency call was placed during morning or evening rush hour? Access to the site has to go on Lake Street, which has noted traffic issues.
6. The attached plan shows a 32 ft. radius turn-around at the front entrance to the independent living facility. I assume that is sufficiently sized to accommodate a police car or an ambulance. The information the ZBA was provided previously indicates an Arlington fire truck has a turning radius of nearly 41 ft. (see attached) Would that be the size of the fire truck that would typically respond to a resident emergency? If it cannot turn around in that 32 ft. radius area, is there sufficient space for the truck to back out or execute a three-point turn before exiting onto Dorothy Road?
7. The same fire truck information was used to confirm fire truck access around the building. Would there be different trucks responding to fires that would try to circumnavigate the building, like a ladder truck? If so, do you have turning information for that or those vehicles?

We would greatly appreciate your assistance in answering these questions at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

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