

Hi Christine,

Thank you very much for sending me this information. I have been hearing from many concerned residents about this issue, and I truly appreciate reading everyone's opinion. Your unique perspective is particularly insightful. Please contribute to reach out to my office with any concern you may have.

Thank you,  
Kevin

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 14, 2019, at 8:51 PM, Christine Pfaff <[CPfaff@barrington220.org](mailto:CPfaff@barrington220.org)> wrote:

Dear Mr. Morrison,

I am writing as a proud community member of the 15th District and also as a concerned Educator in Barrington School District 220. I have the privilege of working with our youngest learners at the Early Learning Center (ELC), located at 40 E. Dundee Road in Barrington, IL.

The ELC is made up of approximately 375 young students ages 3-6, many of which have special needs and many of which (with the exception of our 48 kindergarten students) are learners at risk for failing kindergarten. I urge you to understand that we hold a giant responsibility in our hands day in and day out.

Over the past many months we have been fighting to keep the land in between our special education school and the Barrington Middle School-Prairie Campus free from building the Barrington Countryside Fire Station. Obviously we are all public servants, and we very much understand the vital work firefighters and paramedics do daily. On the other side, we're asking that you understand the vital work we, as educators, do daily. Let me explain a little bit about how the location of the fire station on that piece of property would hinder us from educating our young learners.

First and foremost, the construction of the fire station would be a challenge from day one and is estimated to last 9-20 months. We fear our playground, which is vital for children to develop their gross motor skills and a requirement of the grant we hold, may have to be closed during construction due to safety hazards. Construction vehicles in and out would also cause quite the traffic nightmare, as if traffic at arrival and dismissal times isn't scary enough. During construction, we would likely lose parking spots due to safety with too close of proximity to a work site. Parking on our school campus is already extremely limited.

We have undergone construction to the west of our school in the last few years, and I can tell you from experience that my students suffered. We lost days of learning when my classroom was vibrating from digging. We lost focus when there were odd smells coming from the construction site. And we shed tears when we watched the trees get cut down because my students had been learning about how trees are alive, and they saw them be killed.

If we were to endure all that, we would then be left with a fire station, with fire trucks and ambulances coming and going with sirens and flashing lights often. As I mentioned, many of our students have significant needs including sensory processing struggles and mental health issues such as anxiety. These noises and distractions would not bode well in creating a calm and supportive educational environment for our youngest learners.

I urge you to please stop the fire station from moving forward. Please encourage Barrington Countryside Fire District to find an alternative location to build.

Sincerely,  
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