



**HARRISONBURG** | VA  
**FRIENDLY BY NATURE**



Presentation to  
Harrisonburg City Council

Proposed Fire Station #5



December 14, 2021

# HISTORY OF GROWTH...

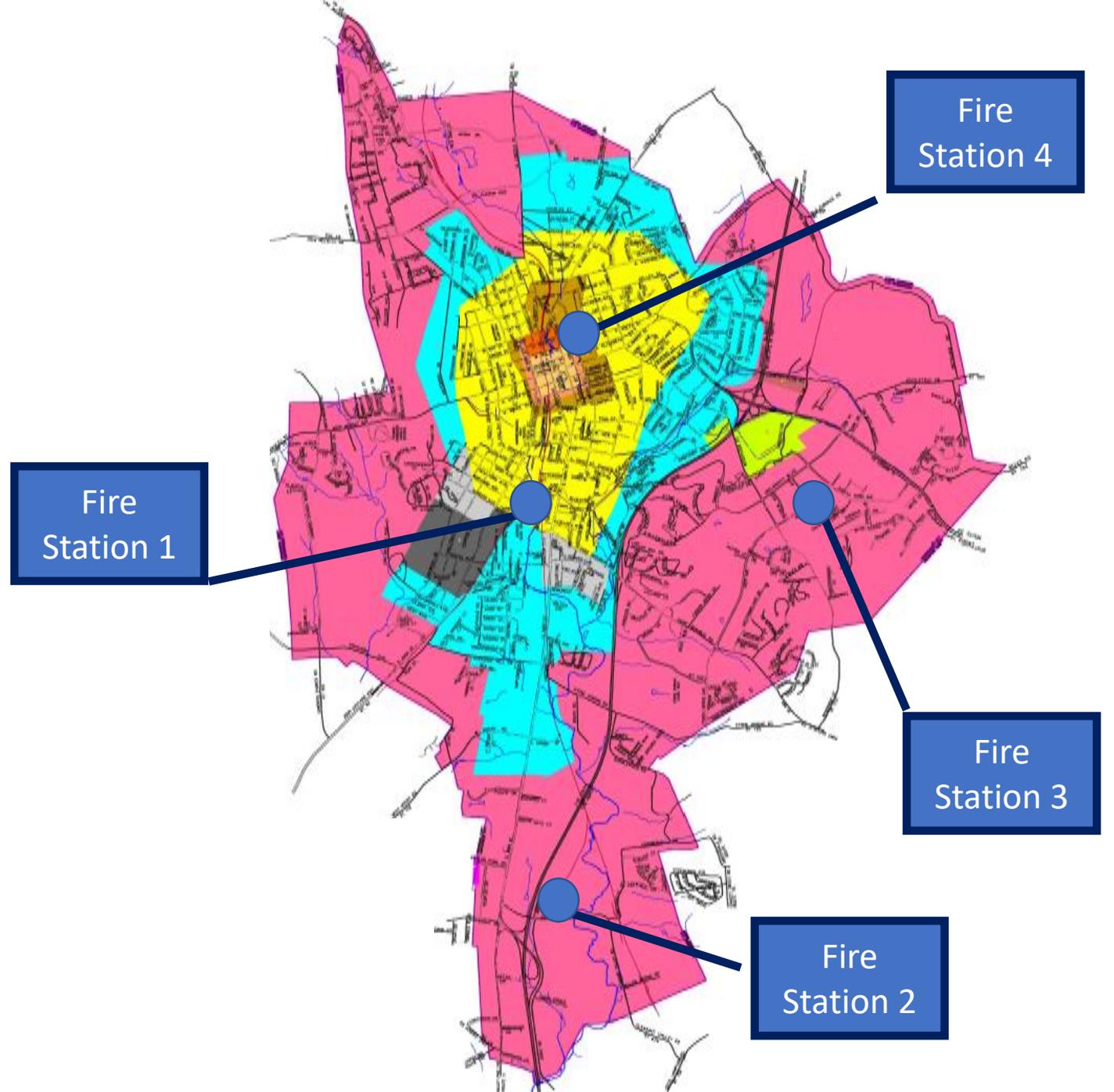
1970: Fire Station 1

1975: Fire Station 4

1983: Expansion  
(Highlighted in **Pink**)

1985: Fire Station 2

1985: Fire Station 3  
(relocated to current site on Lucy Drive in 2003)



# Seconds Matter in a Life-Threatening Emergency



- Heart Stops Beating – chance of survival after **4 minutes** < 2%
  - Nationwide, the rate of survival is < 10%
  - In Harrisonburg, the rate of survival is 52% (up to 90%)
  - Three reasons:
    - Station locations
    - FF/EMT's & FF/Paramedics
    - Systems approach
  - Two examples:
    - Nursing student at MTC\*
    - Healthy young man in early 20's at local grocery store\*
- \*Combined 100 years of life added



- Fires today burn 8 times faster and produce 200 times more smoke than 50 years ago
- Flashover (the point of non-survivability) **4 minutes** from the moment of ignition
- Smoke inhalation: leading cause of death of fire victims
- People 85 and older are at greatest risk for death, followed by those over 50, followed by children under the age of 4

# Response Time is the Most Accurate Predictor of Outcomes

In 2020, HFD firefighters extended the lives of citizens by over 250 years

In 2020, HFD firefighters saved over \$96 million dollars of property endangered by fire

7 out of 10 businesses that suffer a serious fire never re-open their doors

**NFPA**

# 1710

**Standard for the  
Organization and Deployment  
of Fire Suppression Operations,  
Emergency Medical Operations,  
and Special Operations to the  
Public by Career Fire Departments**

**2020**

The first fire engine  
shall arrive within  
240 seconds (4 min)  
90% of the time

Where are we in meeting that goal?

Fire Station 1

4 minutes 37 seconds

Fire Station 2

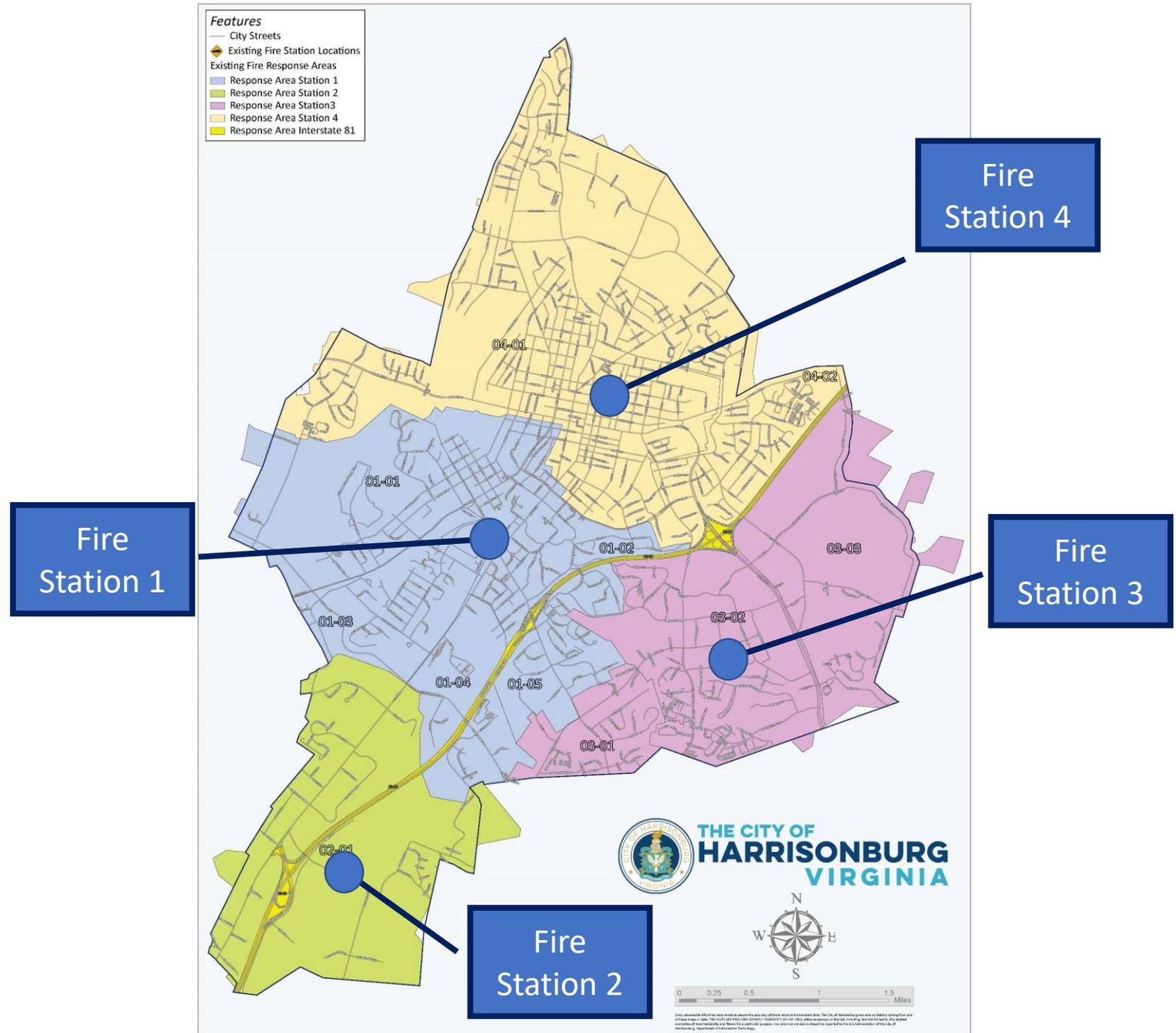
5 minutes 04 seconds

Fire Station 3

4 minutes 49 seconds

Fire Station 4

6 minutes

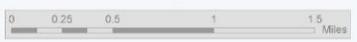


- Existing Fire Station Locations
- Proposed Fire Response Areas
  - Response Area Station 1
  - Response Area Station 2
  - Response Area Station 3
  - Response Area Station 4
  - Response Area Station 5
  - Response Area Interstate 81



# Proposed Fire Station #5

- Community based in the Park View Section
- 12-14,000 sq. ft. for current and future needs
- Staffed with new FF/EMT & FF/Paramedic positions
- 750 – 1000 calls annually
- Projected to open two years after funding (design, build, staffing)
- Community connection space potential
- Inter-Departmental connection potential





## MAJOR BENEFIT - Improving Quality of Life, Safety and Prosperity



- 11,500 people directly impacted
- Faster Response Times in accordance with national standards
  - Virginia Mennonite Retirement Community
  - Eastern Mennonite University
  - Waterman Elementary
  - Thomas Harrison Middle School
  - Eastern Mennonite School
  - Minnick School
  - Park View community
  - Developing Commercial District



# MAJOR BENEFIT – ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS



- ISO grades a community on its ability to mitigate fire as a predictor of risk – drives insurance rates for commercial (and sometimes residential) properties.
- Scale of 1 to 10; 1 is the best; 10 is the worst
  - 50% - Fire Department
  - 40% - Water Distribution System
  - 10% - 9-1-1 Communications Center
  - An extra 5.5% can be earned through Community Risk Reduction
- 40,000 FDs in the U.S.; 411 have ISO Class 1 Status
- 9 in Virginia (out of 673) are Class 1 and we are competing with them to attract businesses, industry, jobs, and growth to our City

# Virginia Fire Departments

## – ISO Class 1

- City of Fairfax Fire Department
  - Danville Fire Department
  - Charlottesville Fire Department
  - Roanoke Fire-EMS Department
  - Hampton Division of Fire & Rescue
  - Newport News Fire Department
  - Henrico County Division of Fire
  - Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department
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- Harrisonburg Fire Department





# HARRISONBURG 2039

ADOPTED COUNCIL VISION 2021



Councilmember Laura Dent    Councilmember George Hirschmann    Councilmember Christopher Jones    Mayor Deanna Reed    Vice Mayor Sal Romero

## WE ARE THE CAPITAL OF THE SHENANDOAH VALLEY

**WE PROVIDE A QUALITY URBAN LIVING OPTION FOR EVERYONE WHO WANTS TO RESIDE HERE**

**OUR DIVERSE POPULATION THRIVES IN A WELCOMING CITY WHERE ALL ARE VALUED AS FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS**

**OUR INCLUSIVENESS IS OUR STRENGTH AND REFLECTS THE TRUE SPIRIT OF OUR CITY**

**THE PILLARS OF OUR MULTICULTURAL, MULTI-ETHNIC, AND MULTI-GENERATIONAL CITY CONSIST OF A ROBUST ECONOMY AND A VIBRANT EDUCATION EPICENTER, ALONG WITH A BROAD RANGE OF AMENITIES THAT ENRICH LIFE**

**THIS IS MADE POSSIBLE BY THE FISCALLY SOUND PLANNING OF OUR STAFF AND ELECTED LEADERS**

# HARRISONBURG 2039

# Why ARPA?

- Aligns with legislative intent to improve resiliency, capacity to protect our community, and preparedness
- Enhances services for some of the most at-risk populations in the City
- Supports adopted council vision
- Frees local tax revenue for other important city infrastructure projects



Investing in our  
Community's Future

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Questions?