



## City of Cleveland

Frank G. Jackson, Mayor

Department of Public Safety  
Martin L. Flask, Director  
601 Lakeside Avenue, Room 230  
Cleveland, Ohio 44114-1015  
216/664-3476 • Fax: 216/664-3734  
www.cleveland-oh.gov

January 18, 2008

Tom L. Newman, Executive Director  
*Flats Oxbow Association*  
1283 Riverbed Street  
Cleveland, OH 44113

**Re: Fire Station #21/The Celebreeze**

Dear Mr. Newman,

I am in receipt of your letter dated January 11, 2008, requesting the reinstatement of Fire Station #21 and the Celebreeze fireboat. Immediately upon receipt of your letter, I asked the Chief of Fire to provide insight into his decision to temporarily close the firehouse. His decision was clear, and in my opinion, the appropriate course of action.

We have a well-trained and experienced force capable of handling virtually any emergency. The Division currently operates 41 units, which includes 24 engine and 13 ladder companies, and 4 rescue squads. In addition to that basic deployment, we have specialized units that have dual roles, including but not limited to responding to hazardous materials, biological and chemical incidents and the operation of the fireboat.

I remain firmly convinced that the fireboat is an essential tool for the Division of Fire. It provides an additional capability to handle structural fires along Cleveland's waterfront. Although the fireboat has only responded to one structural fire in the past seven years, we believe it important to keep the unit a functioning tool and available for use.

The Chief of Fire made an administrative decision, based calls for service, and his operational budget, to temporarily close the company until the budget and overtime expenditures are brought under control. He has personnel resources from other engine and ladder companies—within 2 miles of Firehouse 21, to handle emergency calls for service and at no time is safety jeopardized in our community.

I want to thank you for allowing us to review and respond to your concerns. If you wish to speak with me on this topic, or any other topic, please contact me directly at 216.664.3736.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Flask".

Martin L. Flask, Director  
Department of Public Safety

cc: Paul Stubbs, Chief, Division of Fire  
Tarra Seifullah, Mayor's Correspondence Assistant, Office of the Mayor