



City of Beacon, New York

Office of the Mayor
Lee Kyriacou, Mayor

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CITY OF BEACON DEDICATES NEW CENTRAL FIRE STATION: HISTORIC INVESTMENT MODERNIZES FIRE SERVICES FOR THE NEXT CENTURY

Beacon, NY—Today, Mayor Lee Kyriacou and members of the Beacon City Council joined scores of community members and State and County officials to celebrate the dedication of the new central station for the Beacon Fire Department. Located at the “gateway” to Beacon on Route 9D opposite City Hall, the reconstructed and expanded fire station represents the culmination of decades of studies and plans to consolidate three fire stations into one central location.

Costing \$14.7 million, the 17,000 square foot facility is the largest capital project in the City’s history. The new state-of-the-art facility is a modern, energy-efficient building designed to fit in with the historic architecture of the community and offer enhanced emergency response capabilities and improved safety for Beacon residents and local firefighters.

Mayor Lee Kyriacou said: “As Mayor, I insisted we reuse an existing firehouse and not build a new one, which substantially reduced construction costs and enabled investment in state-of-the-art fire safety and building efficiency while avoiding large tax increases. I see the new firehouse from my office in City Hall, and it has been truly a pleasure to watch as the all-brick facade was unveiled, and our firefighters and engines occupied their well-deserved new home. Our City is justifiably proud of this sustainable and cost-effective architectural gem.”

Beacon Fire Chief Thomas Lucchesi highlighted some of the station’s features for enhanced firefighter safety, support and morale. “There are ample living quarters including six dorm rooms, a fully outfitted physical fitness room, and advanced training spaces – designed to enhance the well-being and readiness of Beacon’s firefighters,” he noted, adding, “With the increased risk for today’s firefighters of exposure to hazardous materials, the most important upgrade in the firehouse is the investment made in decontamination facilities.”

Beacon City Administrator Chris White commented: “Our central fire station is among the most environmentally sustainable in the Hudson Valley. The all-electric station features geothermal heating and cooling, high efficiency insulation, natural lighting, and Electric Vehicle charging stations in an improved public parking lot atop the geothermal wells.”

The City vacated the former Tompkins Hose Firehouse on this site at the end of 2022, officially broke ground in June 2023, and finished the facility at the end of October 2024. The new fire station was designed by Mitchell Associates Architects (now Wendel Architecture), with The Palombo Group as construction manager, and Mid-Hudson Construction Management of Poughkeepsie as general construction firm. Mayor Kyriacou credited these firms, and in particular City Administrator Chris White, for the project staying on time and within budget.

The City’s decades-long transition from three firehouses operated by volunteer companies to a central fire station with primarily career firefighters has spanned four mayoral administrations. The process included multiple independent studies beginning in 2006, evaluating how best to address the twin challenges of three aging firehouses and a steady decline in volunteer firefighters. Community leaders,

along with volunteer and career staff, spent countless hours working with consultants to address these challenges and plan for the future of the City and its Fire Department.

A central consolidated fire station emerged as the consensus solution to the City's three storied but aging firehouses. The Mayor's decision to renovate the former Tompkins Hose Firehouse, constructed in 1982, substantially reduced overall cost, which along with new sales tax revenue from a renegotiated agreement with Dutchess County, allowed investments in advanced firematics as well as all-electric and geothermal sustainability. These also allowed a million dollar investment in an upgraded brick façade with unique architectural details, creating an elegant appearance in harmony with Beacon's Main Street and reflecting the City's local history as a brick making center.

Beacon's proud volunteer firefighting history has been integrated into the new station as well. Display cases throughout the building showcase memorabilia from more than a century of service by Beacon volunteer firefighters from Beacon Engine Company, Mase Hook & Ladder Company, and Lewis Tompkins Hose Company. In addition, monuments that stood at each of the three volunteer firehouses now stand at the building entrance around a flagpole to honor and preserve the history of Beacon firefighters.

As the new building comes online, the City continues to proactively address its other big challenge: the long-term firefighter staffing needs faced by every small community nationwide. In 2013, the City hired its first full-time Chief, Gary Van Voorhis. Since 2020, Beacon has systematically worked toward staffing goals, fully funding an increase from three to four firefighters on 24/7 duty and promoting staff to have a lieutenant on every shift. In 2023, Van Voorhis retired, and Beacon welcomed current Fire Chief Thomas Lucchesi.

About the Beacon Fire Department

The City of Beacon Fire Department has a team of career firefighters comprised of a fire chief, 4 lieutenants and 14 firefighters. The Department also has 4 active volunteer firefighters. The Department is headquartered in a new central firehouse with four primary fire apparatuses. It responds to more than 1,900 emergency and fire calls per year and boasts one of the fastest response times in the county. One of the key items in the City's budget, the Beacon Fire Department provides around-the-clock emergency services and fire protection for a diverse city of more than 15,000 residents as well as safeguarding vital infrastructure that includes MTA Railroad facilities, the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge, hundreds of commercial establishments, and thousands of dwellings.

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