



THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
WASHINGTON DC 20350-1000

July 25, 2022

The Honorable Christopher Van Hollen
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Van Hollen:

Thank you for your letter of June 28, 2022, regarding the fire station at Naval Support Activity (NSA) Bethesda. The military construction project to build a new fire station has been refined into a Navy-only project to construct a new 16,500-square-foot fire station in the northwest area of the installation. The Navy completed preliminary planning for this project and will evaluate and prioritize it among the Department of the Navy's military construction requirements during the planning, programming, and budgeting process.

The Navy is taking action today to ensure the existing fire station is safe. We awarded a contract to make emergent facility repairs, and, over the next few weeks, damaged flooring will be replaced, new exterior doors and frames will be installed, and the firehouse structure will be upgraded to prevent water intrusion. Additionally, the Navy conducted a structural survey of the building and determined that it remains safe to occupy. Finally, the NSA Bethesda public works officer and NSA Bethesda Fire Department leadership established recurring meetings to ensure facility issues are promptly and completely addressed.

It is never acceptable for our people to be living or working in unsafe facilities. Navy leadership will maintain our focus on the infrastructure needs at NSA Bethesda and the safety and health of Department of Defense personnel who live and work there. To this end, the new Regional Commander, Rear Admiral Nancy Lacore, visited NSA Bethesda on the first day she took command.

I would also like to give you an update on the status of Sanctuary Hall and Comfort Hall. Hot water; heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC), and customer service issues are fully resolved at Sanctuary Hall, and the barracks is operating at near capacity with only minor, routine issues reported by the residents. Comfort Hall is undergoing a \$2.7 million renovation to upgrade the hot water supply system, replace flooring, upgrade the electrical and HVAC systems, and install new refrigerators and microwaves in each room. The project is on schedule and will be completed in late August 2022, and new residents will be assigned to Comfort Hall starting in September.

Thank you for your commitment to the welfare of our military and civilian personnel and for your support of NSA Bethesda's infrastructure needs. If I may be of any further assistance, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Carlos Del Toro".

Carlos Del Toro