



An Open Letter to the Residents of Boston Heights Regarding the Proposed Safety Center

November 3, 2025

Dear Village of Boston Heights Residents:

There has been a lot of talk recently about the Village Safety Center project, some accurate, some not so much. We'd like to take a moment to clear the air and share where things actually stand. Our goal is simple: **To create a safe, efficient space for our police and fire departments to serve our community, both today and well into the future.**

Nothing has been finalized, and **no village funds have been spent** to date. Over the past year and a half, we've been working with DS Architecture, a firm that specializes in public safety facilities, to explore what Boston Heights needs now and what may be needed ten to fifteen years from now. The Village has been fortunate to secure **\$1.7 million in state and federal grants**, \$850,000 from the Ohio Senate OTSCIF Capital Bill, and another \$850,000 expected from Congresswoman Emilia Sykes' 2025 Community Funding Project. These grants have funded conceptual planning and potential design options to date.

Why We Need a New Safety Center

Our police department currently operates from the basement of our over 100-year-old Village Hall. It's cramped, outdated, and not up to modern safety standards. A few years ago, the Bureau of Criminal Investigation reviewed the facility and found numerous issues, while some are fixable, others are not. Without meaningful updates, we risk losing our police department altogether.

What Happens If We Don't Act

If we were to lose our department, law enforcement duties would fall to the county sheriff's office. That would mean fewer patrols, higher costs, and far less personal service. The officers who know our families and streets best wouldn't be here day to day. That local connection matters.

Planning for the Future

We've asked our Police Chief, Fire Chief, and administrative team to think beyond today, five and ten years ahead. Our architects have done the same. While no one can predict the future perfectly, the design takes growth and long-term needs into account.

The Vision

The new facility would connect the existing fire station with a new wing for police and administrative offices. The fire station itself would also receive necessary upgrades. This design honors the strong mid-century character of our existing building which is welcoming and distinctly Boston Heights.

As DS Architecture describes it:

“As a civic presence, the station is grounded in its surroundings and seamlessly integrated into the identity of the landscape. It stands with strength and continuity, a recognizable part of village life...a true second home where those who serve find belonging, renewal, and strength.”

Renderings are available to view at Village Hall.

Cost and Funding

The target budget is about **\$9 million**. It's ambitious, but achievable. It will be financed responsibly through grants, bonds, existing village funds, and potential naming rights. The bond will be paid back by regional income tax from the businesses operating in the village. Currently, there are no plans to use property tax money.

What About the Old Village Hall?

Our historic Village Hall has served us well but maintaining it has become increasingly difficult. For example, last winter, the water pipes froze for a week. While we do not plan to tear it down, its future use is still open for discussion and new concepts. Ideas include a community center or a small local shop. We'll welcome input when the time comes.

What's Next

We hadn't planned to share all this quite yet mainly because we are still evaluating concepts and building designs, but we wanted to address recent rumors and misinformation with facts. Once the plans, cost estimates, and financing details are finalized, we'll hold a public meeting to present everything openly before council votes. Then, with your support, the real work can begin.

The Bigger Picture

Ohio's 600 large and small villages are under new scrutiny following House Bill 331, which creates a pathway for dissolving villages and small municipalities that can't sustain essential services. The first service on that list is police protection. Simply put: **if we lose our police department, we risk losing our village identity.**

Ron Antal, CPA



Mayor, Village of Boston Heights

Dave Maccarone



Council President,
Chair – Public Safety Committee