



Government & Education | Economics & Public Finance | Health & Human Services | Nonprofits & Communities

## **Town of Irondequoit Fire Districts: An Analysis of Existing Conditions and Options for the Future**

Prepared for The Laurelton, Point Pleasant, Ridge Culver, Saint Paul Boulevard and Sea Breeze Fire Districts.

Supported by the New York State Department of State Local Government Efficiency Grant Program

# Meeting Outline

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- Overview of the project
- Key findings of the project
- Options for the future
  
- Report available at:
  - <https://www.cgr.org/irondequoitfiredistricts/>

## Project Overview

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- CGR was engaged by the fire districts to study the existing conditions, identify options for the future and develop an implementation plan for select options
- Project began in Fall of 2019
- Steering committee from each district
- Data gathering and interviews with members from each district. About 50 people overall plus a survey with the departments
- Initial plan to complete in Spring of 2020, but COVID delayed portions of the study
- Report was finalized in May 2021

	Square Miles	Population Est (2019)
Laurelton Fire District	3.2	8,815
Point Pleasant Fire District	2.7	5,520
Ridge-Culver Fire District	4.3	14,891
St. Paul Fire District	5.7	19,272
Sea Breeze Fire District	0.5	1,217
Total	16.3	49,715

## Legend



Fire Stations

### 4 Minute Drive Time



Laurelton FD 4 Min Drive Time



Point Pleasant FD 4 Min Drive Time



Ridge-Culver FD 4 Min Drive Time



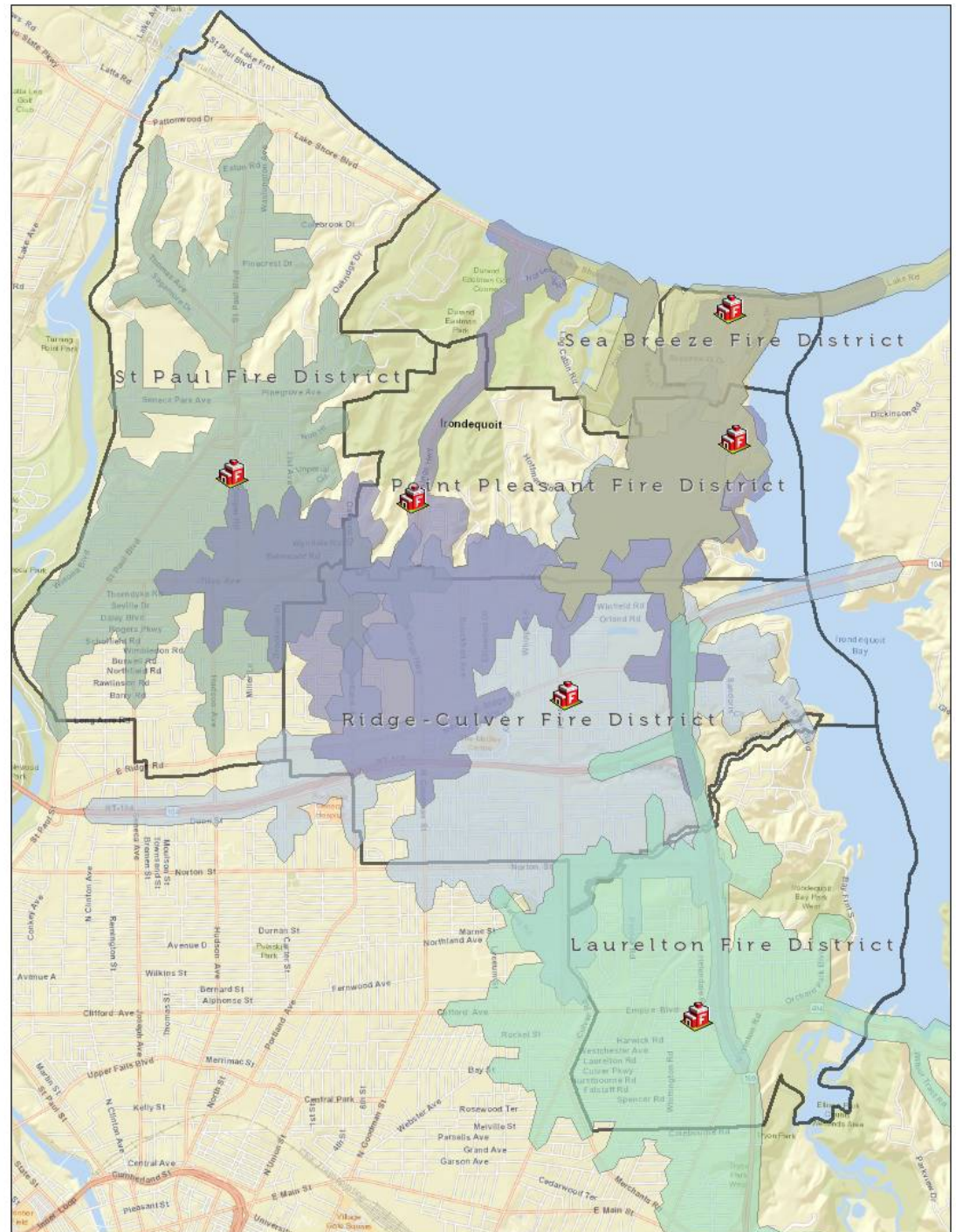
Sea Breeze FD 4 Min Drive Time



St. Paul FD 4 Min Drive Time



Fire Districts



# Department Overview

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	Career on duty	Volunteers (Interior)	Quint	Engine	Rescue	Other
Laurelton	2	20	1	1	1	
Point Pleasant	1 (17 hours)	28	0	2	1	Mini, Squad, Reserve Engine
Ridge Culver	4	24	1	2	1	
Sea Breeze	0	28	0	2	0	Ambulance
St. Paul Blvd	4	20	1	2	1	
Total	11	120	3	9	4	

# Calls for Service Overview (2016 -2019 average)

NFIRS Incident Type Group	Laurelton	Point Pleasant	Ridge-Culver	Sea Breeze	St. Paul Blvd	Total
1-Fire	46	35	59	17	58	215
2-Overpressure Rupture, Explosion, Overheat	2	1	10	1	2	16
3-Rescue & Emergency Medical Service Incident	393	458	1,258	175	1,196	3,480
4-Hazardous Condition	120	37	151	22	158	488
5-Service Call	51	27	234	24	156	492
6-Good Intent Call	74	65	192	37	136	504
7-False Alarm & False Call	76	46	214	7	198	541
8-Severe Weather & Natural Disaster	15	11	20	2	38	86
9-Special/Other	1	3	5	5	4	18
Total	778	682	2,144	290	1,946	5,840



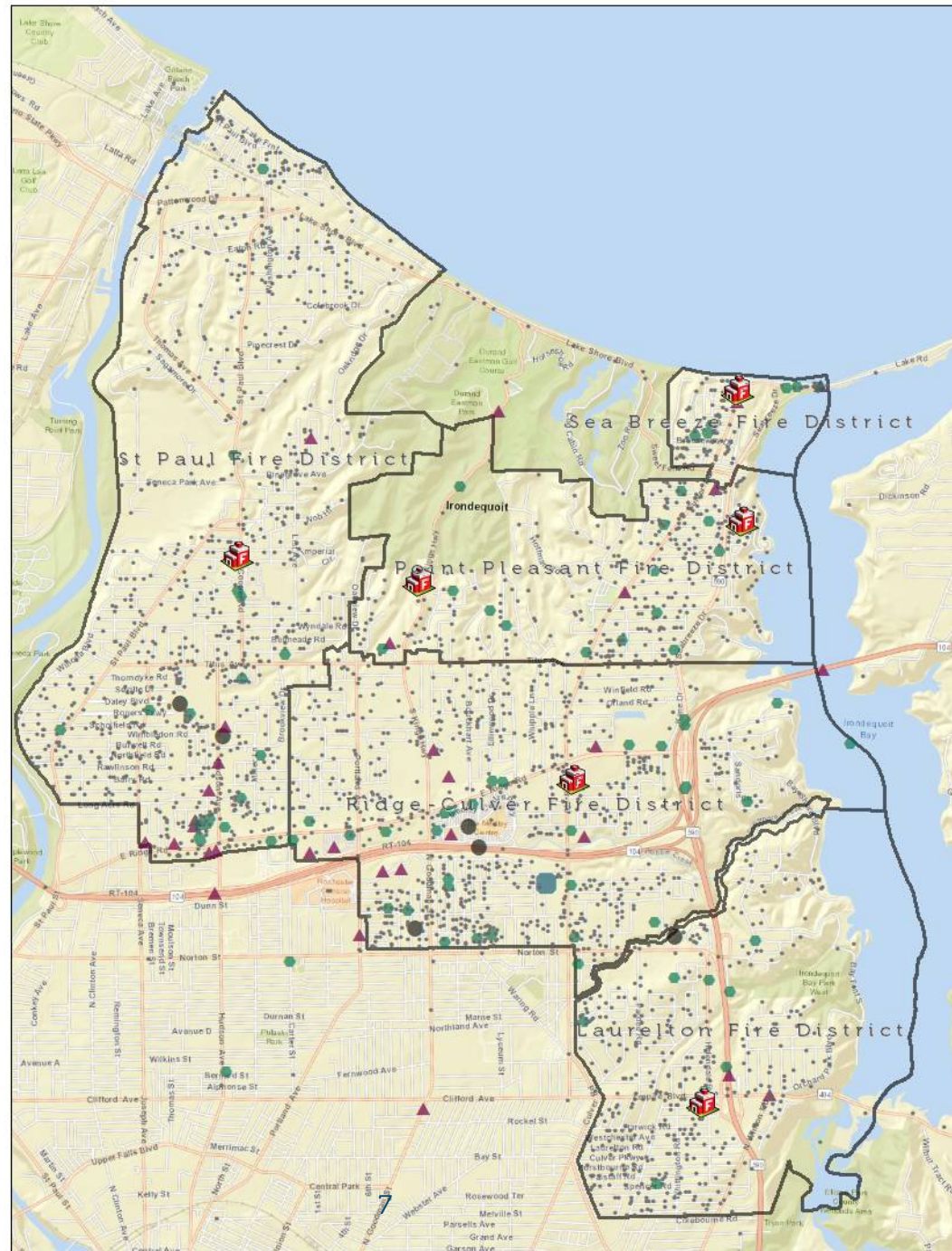
# 2018 Calls for Service

## Legend

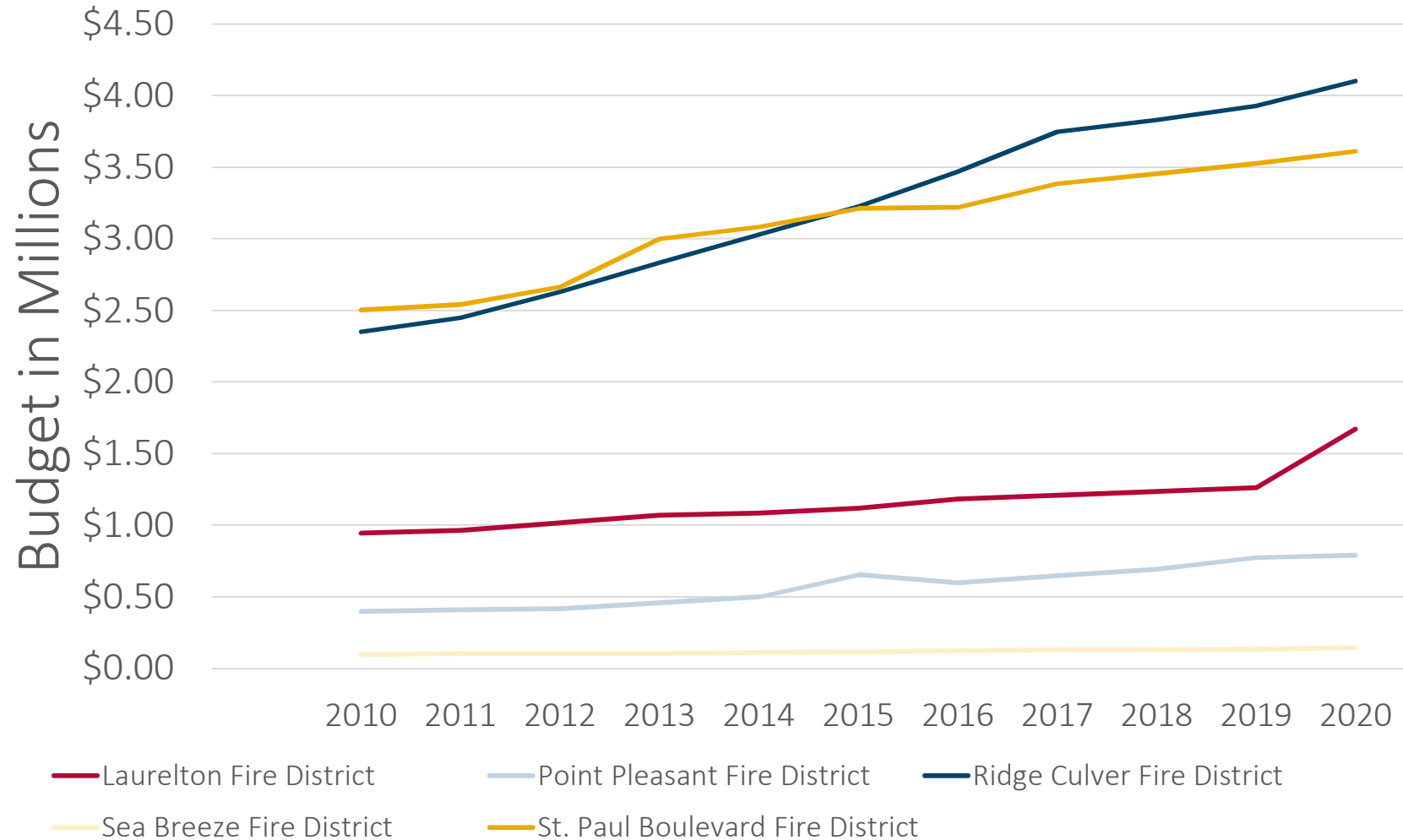


## Calls for Service

- 1 to 5
- 6 to 11
- 12 to 35
- 36 to 105
- Over 105



# Fire District Budgets (Long Term)





# Share Of Taxes

	2020 Rate	Cost to Median Home	Full Tax Rate	Fire Districts	County	Town	School
County	\$8.51	\$1,021.56	Share of full tax bill				
Town	\$6.17	\$740.45					
East Irondequoit CSD	\$29.18	\$3,501.36					
West Irondequoit CSD	\$27.59	\$3,310.75					
Laurelton	\$3.30	\$395.86	\$47.16	7%	18%	13%	62%
Point Pleasant *	\$2.33	\$279.01	\$44.60	5%	19%	14%	65%
Ridge Culver *	\$5.29	\$635.35	\$49.16	11%	17%	13%	59%
Sea Breeze	\$2.09	\$250.56	\$45.95	5%	19%	13%	64%
St. Paul FD	\$2.82	\$338.90	\$45.10	6%	19%	14%	61%
*Shows all of RCFD and PPF in East Irondequoit while a few addresses are actually in West Irondequoit							

## Options Considered

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1. Status Quo
2. Create a Single District
3. Create Two Districts – Central and Northeast
4. Develop Office of Volunteer Support
5. Set Responses Based on Closest Units and On Duty Staffing
6. Create Town Training Department
7. Develop Purchasing Standards and Process

## Option for Coordinated Training

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- Create a Training Committee
- Develop a Master Training Calendar
- Host a Firefighter One Course
- Plan Purchases for Training Props and Materials

## Thoughts to Support Volunteers

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- Assign Volunteers to Career Groups
- Support Volunteer Leadership Development
- Develop a Bunk In Program

## Coordinated Purchasing of Materials

- Create a single purchasing agent to procure commonly bought items

# Investigate Potential Implications of Merger of Ridge Culver and Laurelton Fire Districts

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- Look to retain both stations
- Potential to reduce the fleet to 1 quint, 2 engines, 1 rescue and 1 squad
  - Allowing 1 quint, 1 engine and 1 rescue to be surplus
- Career Staff is currently at 28 and would need to remain at (or above) that number
  - Contracts are close between the two departments
- Volunteers and associations could merge or remain separate, doesn't need to be decided yet
- Commissions merge into a single commission

# RCFD and LFD Financial Scenario

	LFD	RCFD	Potential Change	Combined Costs	Explanation
<b>Personnel Services</b>	\$756,132	\$2,305,000	-\$15,000	\$3,046,132	Reduction in Treasurer position and Civilian Administrator
<b>Equipment</b>	\$179,000	\$323,000	-\$75,000	\$427,000	Reduction in funding for apparatus reserve and decline in maintenance costs
<b>Contractual</b>	\$155,175	\$395,800	-\$10,000	\$540,975	Reduction in legal fees, payroll contract and accountant
<b>Benefits</b>	\$413,000	\$1,336,700	\$0	\$1,749,700	No changes assumed
<b>Debt Service</b>	\$218,370	\$0	\$0	\$218,370	No changes assumed
<b>Total Expenses</b>	\$1,721,677	\$4,360,500	-\$100,000	\$5,982,177	



# Scenario's Impact to Taxes

	Current LFD	Current RCFD	Hypothetical Combined
<b>Property Tax Assessment</b>	\$1,720,577	\$4,360,500	\$5,982,177
<b>Assessed Valuation (millions)</b>	\$509.4 m	\$773.9 m	\$1,283.4 m
<b>Tax Rate Per Thousand</b>	\$3.38	\$5.63	\$4.66
<b>Annual Cost for \$125,000 home</b>	\$422	\$704	\$583
<b>Annual Change for New District for \$125k Home</b>	\$160	-\$122	
<b>If 4 firefighters added (per \$1,000)</b>	+ \$1.06	+ \$0.70	+ \$0.42

## Future Steps

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- RCFD and LFD have begun the path toward consolidation.
- Volunteers need to be supported.
- Career staff play a key role and will likely continue to expand that role.
- Decisions need to be focused on the best services to the residents, even if they might force changes to tradition and current practices.