

Yonkers opens new firehouse to replace condemned Station 1 facility

Tiffany Cusaac-Smith, Rockland/Westchester Journal News Published 12:40 p.m. ET Dec. 19, 2019 | Updated 4:00 p.m. ET Dec. 19, 2019

Yonkers has opened a new state-of-the-art Station 1 firehouse after the original facility had been condemned and closed years ago. The opening of the facility at 25 John St. on Wednesday also marked the first firehouse built in the city since 1980.

"This new fire station will allow the Yonkers Fire Department to position its resources in the most optimum locations to continue to protect life and property," said Yonkers Fire Commissioner Robert Sweeney.

"I envision this new fire station to be the cornerstone of YFD moving forward, as we plan on how best to serve the City of Yonkers," Sweeney added.

Citing the influx of new, large developments in the area and emerging public safety difficulties, Sweeney said that the new firehouse shows that the department will have the resources to face challenges.

Tower Ladder 71 and the department's Rescue Company were relocated from the old facility in 2015 after the original station was closed due to unsafe building conditions and deemed beyond economic repair.

Yet, [some firefighters at the time wanted to stay at the old facility \(/story/news/local/westchester/yonkers/2015/08/13/yonkers-new-firehouse/31651659/\)](/story/news/local/westchester/yonkers/2015/08/13/yonkers-new-firehouse/31651659/), even rallying outside the building urging the city to renovate it if possible.



Interior view of the new bays at the firehouse, during a ribbon cutting for the newly constructed Yonkers Fire Station 1, at 25 John Street, Dec. 18, 2019. (Photo: Mark Vergari/The Journal News)

Now, the Tower Ladder and Rescue Company will be occupying the building that is expected to be fully operational next month.

The new firehouse is a two-story, steel-framed building that is designed to have a distinct separation between the fire side and the living quarters.

The facility, around 22,500 square feet in total, provides fuel for fire trucks and city vehicles. It also has heated flooring and an emergency generator.

The first floor features an exercise room and a day room with a kitchen, among other amenities. The second floor is outfitted with personnel lockers and sleeping quarters for on-duty members.

A mural and bricks from the old Station 1 were among the items included in the construction of the new facility. A firefighter's memorial comprised of five historic bells that once rang from the St. Andrew's Episcopal Church stands in front of the firehouse. That worship space burned down in 1981.

Looking forward, Mayor Mike Spano said the new firehouse "will complement Yonkers firefighters' continuous efforts to protect and serve our city."

"I am confident Station 1 will fulfill Yonkers Fire Department's proud commitment to the core values of integrity, valor, loyalty and dedication for generations to come," Spano added.