

Proposal to Transition District Website In-House

Presented to the Fire Board

Subject: Website Services Cost Reduction and Management Transition

Executive Summary

Over the past several years, the cost of our website services through Streamline has continued to increase annually without a corresponding increase in services or benefits. Most recently, Streamline proposed a renewal rate of **\$3,050.40 per year**, maintaining their current pricing only after concerns were expressed regarding a last-minute increase that was not compatible with our board-approved budget.

Given these ongoing cost increases and Streamline's announced merger with CivicPlus, it is an appropriate time to evaluate whether continuing with a third-party website provider remains in the District's best interest.

We propose that the District bring website management and administration back in-house, utilizing our existing HostGator services and internal capabilities.

Current Costs

Streamline Website Services

- Proposed Annual Cost: **\$3,050.40**

Existing HostGator Services

The District already maintains a HostGator account that includes:

- Website hosting
- Email services
- Server storage
- Domain management capabilities
- Additional web management tools

Current HostGator Cost:

- 3-Year Subscription: **\$791.61**
- Annual Equivalent Cost: **\$263.87 per year**

Annual Savings

Service	Annual Cost
Streamline	\$3,050.40
HostGator	\$263.87
Annual Savings	\$2,786.53

Over a five-year period, this transition would save the District approximately **\$13,932.65**, assuming current rates remain unchanged.

Benefits of Bringing the Website In-House

Significant Cost Savings

The District can reduce annual website expenditures by more than 90% while maintaining full control of website operations.

Increased Control

Managing the website internally allows for:

- Immediate updates
- Faster posting of notices and announcements
- Greater flexibility in website design and functionality
- Elimination of dependence on vendor timelines

ADA Compliance

Modern website platforms provide tools and features that support ADA compliance requirements, including:

- Accessibility-ready themes
- Alternative text for images
- Proper heading structures
- Keyboard navigation support
- Accessibility monitoring tools

These features can be implemented and maintained in-house without requiring a third-party provider.

Expanded Functionality

An internally managed website can provide:

- Board meeting agendas and minutes
- Public records access
- Online forms
- News and emergency alerts
- Community information resources
- Document libraries
- Fire prevention and safety information
- Recruitment information
- Mobile-responsive access
- Enhanced search capabilities

Future Flexibility

By controlling our own website platform, the District can add or modify features as needed without being limited by vendor packages or subject to future pricing increases.

Concerns Regarding Continued Vendor Service

1. **Annual cost increases without added benefits.**
2. **Last-minute notification of pricing changes**, making budget planning difficult.
3. **Ongoing uncertainty due to Streamline's merger with CivicPlus.**
4. **Continued reliance on an external vendor for routine website management.**

Recommendation

We recommend that the Board authorize the District to transition website services from Streamline to an internally managed website hosted through our existing HostGator account.

This transition would:

- Reduce annual costs by approximately **\$2,786.53**
- Maintain or improve website functionality
- Support ADA compliance requirements
- Increase operational flexibility
- Provide better long-term budget stability

The transition can be completed utilizing existing District resources while maintaining a professional, accessible, and informative public website for our community.