

# City of La Quinta

CITY COUNCIL MEETING: July 21, 2015

## STAFF REPORT

---

**AGENDA TITLE:** RENAME FIRE STATION NO. 32 IN MEMORY OF LA QUINTA PARAMEDIC/FIREFIGHTER CHRISTOPHER DOUGLAS

---

### RECOMMENDATION

Approve a request from La Quinta Fire Department to rename Fire Station No. 32 to the “Christopher Douglas Memorial Fire Station.”

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Christopher Douglas was tragically killed while on duty July 5, 2013. He spent eight of his nine-year career at Fire Station No. 32 where he served La Quinta residents, trained volunteer firefighters, and worked with the City’s Community Emergency Response Team.
- The original request for a name change came from Mr. Douglas’ widow, Amy Douglas, and is supported by the La Quinta Fire Department and CalFire.
- If approved, new lettering for the fire station (see Attachment 1) will be ordered and a dedication ceremony will be planned for the fall.

### FISCAL IMPACT

None. The dedication ceremony event, estimated at \$2,500, will be funded by CalFire.

### BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

Paramedic/Firefighter Christopher Douglas served the City of La Quinta for eight of his nine years as a Paramedic/Firefighter at Fire Station No. 32. He spent countless hours giving back to the community by training the volunteer fire company, assisting with the Explorer Post, and training the Community Emergency Response Team. He was a dedicated member of his team and “always went the extra mile,” according to Battalion Chief Alex Gregg.

On July 5, 2013, while responding to a roll-over crash on Interstate 10, he was tragically struck by a vehicle and later died from his injuries. In early 2015, Amy Douglas, his widow approached the La Quinta Fire Department about renaming Fire Station No. 32 in his memory. The request was initially discussed with Council on February 17, 2015. Council requested additional information and asked that the item be added to a future Council agenda. Due to scheduling conflicts and the desire to hold the event in cooler weather, the item was scheduled for the July 21, 2015 meeting.

There is no established policy for naming a building after a person; however, a similar policy could be substituted from the City's Park Naming Policy, which only requires a person to be deceased to be considered.

The request to rename the fire station has the complete support of La Quinta Fire Department and CalFire (see Attachment 2). If approved, La Quinta Fire Department and the City will coordinate the renaming of Fire Station No. 32 to the "Christopher Douglas Memorial Fire Station" and plan a dedication ceremony for fall of this year.

### ALTERNATIVES

Council could reject the memorial renaming of the fire station and maintain the existing Fire Station No. 32 name and request other options from La Quinta Fire Department.

Report prepared by: Tustin K. Larson, Marketing & Events Supervisor

Report approved by: Edie Hylton, Deputy City Manager

- Attachments:
1. Mock-up of fire station name
  2. Memo submitted by Deputy Chief of Operations Dorian Cooley

Client:  
**LA QUINTA  
FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Project:  
**EXTERIOR WALL ID SIGN**

Project Address:  
**44-555 ADAMS ST.  
LA QUINTA, CA 92253**

Account Representative:  
**JIM CROSS**

Designer:  
**JAYAR FLORES**

GDT: 0

Date:  
**APRIL 20, 2015**

Scale: **1/4" = 1'-0"**      **1 1/2" = 1'-0"**

File name:  
**Graphics/c/City of La Quinta/  
Fire Department/Christopher  
Douglas**

Revisions:

Client Approval:



1550 S. Gene Autry Trail  
Palm Springs, CA 92264

TEL: (760) 320-3042  
FAX: 760-320-2090



CONTRACTORS LIC. NO. 524483

COLORS REPRESENTED IN THIS DRAWING ARE FOR PRESENTATION PURPOSES ONLY. THEY WILL NOT MATCH YOUR FINISHED PROJECT EXACTLY. PERFECT COLOR CALCULATIONS ARE FOR A MATCH AS CLOSE AS POSSIBLE.

ALL IDEAS, DESIGNS, ARRANGEMENTS AND PLANS INDICATED OR REPRESENTED BY THIS DRAWING ARE OWNED BY AND PROPERTY OF BEST SIGNS, INC. AND WERE CREATED, EVOLVED AND DEVELOPED FOR USE ON AND IN CONNECTION WITH THE SPECIFIED PROJECT. NONE OF SUCH IDEAS, DESIGNS, ARRANGEMENTS OR PLANS SHALL BE USED BY OR DISCLOSED TO ANY PERSON, FIRM OR CORPORATION FOR ANY PURPOSE WHATSOEVER WITHOUT THE WRITTEN PERMISSION OF BEST SIGNS, INC.

**Drawing No. 1**

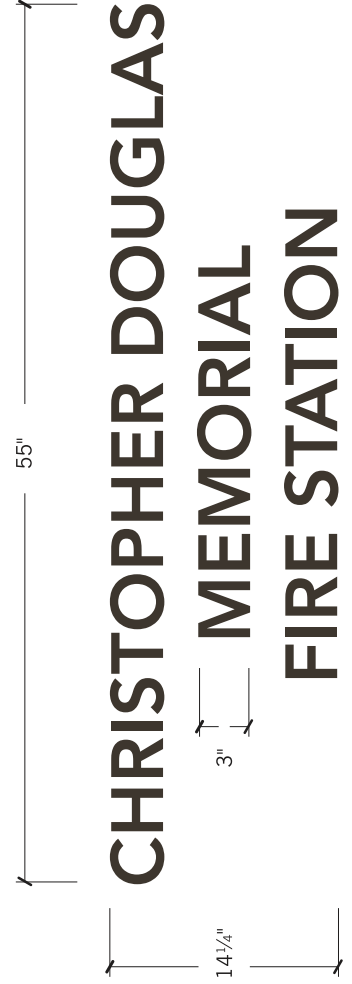
**ATTACHMENT 1**



QTY (1 SET) FABRICATE AND INSTALL INDIVIDUAL FLAT CUT-OUT INTERIOR WALL MOUNTED LETTERS

- INDIVIDUAL LETTERS ROUTED FROM 1/4" THICK PLATE ALUMINUM LETTERS PRIMED AND PAINTED WITH AUTOMOTIVE GRADE POLYURETHANE COATING. PAINTED FINISH TO MATCH DURANODIC BRONZE.
- LETTERS MOUNTED FLUSH TO WALL WITH 10-24 BLIND STUDS AND RTV SILICONE SEALANT BONDING ADHESIVE.

1A







# City of La Quinta

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Tustin K. Larson, Marketing & Events Supervisor

**FROM:** Dorian J. Cooley, Deputy Chief of Operations

**DATE:** July 7, 2015

**SUBJECT:** Information about Christopher Douglas and the renaming of Fire Station #32

---

Notes about Christopher Douglas – submitted by Battalion Chief Alex Gregg

Christopher L. Douglas started his career with Cal Fire Riverside Ranger Unit In February 2004. He was assigned to the old station 32 and worked on medic squad 32. Soon he was sent to the Cal Fire Firefighter Academy and became a permanent Firefighter II/PM. We were lucky to have him assigned permanently back to station 32 after completing his academy. When the opportunity presented itself he happily accepted an assignment on Engine 32. Chris was excited to be a part of an engine company to hone in his firefighting skills and that is exactly what he did. Chris could always be found with his nose in the books studying fire ground operations and EMS protocols'. He was eager to learn all he could about being a good firefighter. He could easily get his crew motivated to train because his passion and energy for the job was contagious. Chris loved his job. He held himself to a high standard and encouraged others to do the same.

Chris also spent his fair share of time in the kitchen preparing meals, trying new recipes and baking desserts. He was especially fond of the BBQ and trying to perfect his peanut brittle and chocolate fudge recipes. Occasionally his kitchen experiments ended with a question to his crew "Do you guys feel like pizza tonight?" and in true Douglas fashion he laughed it off, took it in stride and treated the crew to dinner.

Chris was a humble Firefighter who strived to be his best. He was proud of his fire department and was honored to work in and for the City of La Quinta. Chris always went the extra mile. He was the first to volunteer a helping hand and in doing so touched many people's lives. He spent countless hours training the La Quinta Volunteer Fire Company, assisting in the training of our Explorer Post and training the City's CERT team.

Simply stated Chris excelled in the Firefighter/Paramedic position and when the time came, around February 2012, he decided to transfer to Station 93 to work at our Battalion Headquarters. It was not as decision he took lightly and we knew we would miss him. His impact in the community was soon obvious. For some time after he transferred it seemed we couldn't run a call or go to a community event without someone asking "Hey where's Chris?" He had a true compassion for every patient he encountered and had extraordinary bed side manner.

No matter what you knew him as; Douglas, Topher or Chris, what we knew him as was a "model" Professional Firefighter, a crew member you had the upmost confidence in, a colleague, a friend, and our Brother. A person you simply wanted to be around.

Notes about renaming Fire Station #32 for Christopher Douglas – submitted by Deputy Chief of Operations Dorian Cooley.

In regards to the desire to name the station, it really is a combination of his being part of the initiation of having Paramedics in La Quinta, his time spent there, and the love he had for the community. While having many opportunities to transfer to other parts of the county, Chris chose to stay and work in the community he loved.

He also started dating his wife while assigned to FS32, and with the long hours worked, it became their home away from home as well. After their son Sammy was born – evenings were spent between emergency calls - sharing dinner with the crew and family time there at the station. After his passing, Amy was seeking some permanence that her two children can see as a reflection of who their daddy was. The thought of naming the facility after him seemed to be a natural with the hope that it will serve as a reminder of their father for them.

For the crews and the department, Chris was a hugely popular firefighter – known for not only his wit and laughter, but also his competence and dedication. His reputation as a paramedic, and his calming professional manner serving our many La Quinta residents over the years was impeccable. The desire is to also let him continue to be an example for our firefighters for years to come. The naming of the facility honors his service, and allows us to hold him up as a role model for other firefighters.