



# WINSTON-DILLARD FIRE DISTRICT

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I am writing in reference to your upcoming selection of an architect to design and oversee construction of your fire station. I have recent experience in this process and would highly recommend and endorse Paul Bentley. I have seen Mr. Bentley's work and believe his work is of the highest professional standard.

In our recent design phase for our fire station construction project, I found Mr. Bentley to be invaluable. He came to our location and met with every person who will work in our new station. He solicited their input as to what they liked and disliked about our current facility, what they wanted in their dream station, and how they performed their work (process). He then analyzed our workflow and relationships to produce a floor plan that maximized our efficiency and minimized our square footage requirement. He was cognizant of our funding issues and limitations when he developed a set of plans to meet our needs. While he kept within our limitations, he more than met our dreams and expectations for our new facility. Mr. Bentley did not use a cookie-cutter approach to design, he custom designed a station that met our needs, our wants, and fit our personality. He did not impose his view of what we "should" have or impose designs left over from other projects. He was instrumental in developing and implementing a funding plan that combined public funds, grant funds, in-kind donations, and federal loans. He was able to navigate us through our Federal government's bureaucracy and produce documents that USDA accepted on his first attempt. This was a huge savings of time, money, and human effort.

During construction, Mr. Bentley was on-site whenever we needed him, whenever there was a design, engineering, or construction question or difference of opinion, he was able to sort through various opinions and devise a solution. Now, after occupying our new station for over a year, we are just as satisfied as when we moved in. Mr. Bentley was an instrumental liaison between our contractor and ourselves during our warranty phase of construction. Mr. Bentley truly was an invaluable asset to this project.

In summary, it is my privilege and pleasure to recommend Paul Bentley to you as our fire station architect. If I can provide you any further information or specifics about our experience with Mr. Bentley, please do not hesitate to contact me at 679-8721.

Respectfully,

Ken McGinnis  
Division Chief  
Winston Dillard Fire District

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