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LETTER

Clifton fire trucks do not have air conditioning

Unfortunately, Clifton's fire trucks do not have air conditioning. In fact, air conditioning in both the cab and crew areas would only add approximately \$11,000 to the cost of a new truck. A small price to pay for a place to rehab firefighters during a fire.

Recently, in this extreme heat, our firefighters responded to a car fire on Route 3 and then immediately had to respond to a house fire on Highland Avenue where three firefighters were hurt (2 from heat exhaustion and the third received a severe cut on his hand). Imagine wearing heavy clothing, boots, helmets and carrying heavy gear in this heat. Firefighters are required to put on their jackets, pants and boots before leaving the firehouse to respond to a call. Imagine driving in a fire truck without air conditioning! Then after fighting a fire in 98 degree heat getting

back into the hot fire truck to respond to another fire.

Where do the firefighters cool down while fighting a fire? If an ambulance is free and on the scene that would be the only place to cool down. If one is not available there is no cool place to go.

Coolers with ice and water are brought to the scene. However, none of our firehouses have ice-making machines.

Time this changes. It seems this city more and more is stuck in the past. Maybe it was the norm 20 or 30 years ago for fire trucks not to be air conditioned but this is definitely not the norm today. Our firefighters deserve more.

Times have changed and now is the time Clifton changes its antiquated practices. We can't change the past but the future is ours to mold.

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Clifton