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PUBLIC SAFETY

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MOTION

A recent report indicated that up until recently the Fire Department had been basing its statistics for response times on a 6-minute standard, rather than a 5-minute standard per the National Fire Protection Association. This has caused some confusion for evaluating changes to the Department's deployment of emergency resources. The newly adopted deployment plan, which became effective July 2011, relies on data and other analytical tools to identify optimal coverage throughout the City. However, inconsistencies in the data would undermine any potential analysis.

Although the Fire Department is closely monitoring the new deployment plan, any analysis of response times should rely on consistent data and a standardized methodology. This is crucial not only from an operational perspective, but also for policymakers and City residents to understand the level of service being provided. Ensuring that the impacts are clearly understood is particularly important given the City's limited financial resources.

The Department has committed to a thorough review of the changes in its methodology, but obtaining an independent analysis of the Department's data will help resolve any prior inconsistencies. An independent analysis will also ensure that any subsequent changes to deployment, and their potential impacts, are more clearly understood going forward.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Fire Department be instructed to seek an independent third party review and analysis of the Department's emergency response time statistics.

PRESENTED BY Bernard C. Perry
JAN PERRY
Councilmember, 9th District

SECONDED BY Mitchell England

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