

PUBLIC SAFETY

MOTION

The importance of the public safety services provided by the Los Angeles Fire Department cannot be overstated. While the commitment and performance of the individual men and women of the Department is beyond reproach, the Department's overall performance as measured by Department management-calculated response times is currently in dispute. The confusion surrounding Department response times and the meaning of the various time calculations provided by the Department was in part sparked by managers changing the Department's response time methodology without notification or explanation provided to the public or the City Council.

The City Council has taken multiple votes based on Department-provided response times, including its FY 2011-12 vote in favor of a new "deployment plan." While this plan resulted in the Department being able to deploy increased numbers of firefighters, paramedics and certain equipment during the current fiscal year, confusion surrounding response times makes it unclear whether the expected corresponding impact on response times is occurring. During the FY11-12 budget deliberations, the Council also voted to reject the permanent elimination of 318 firefighter positions and to move \$6.7 million to a new budget line item: "Restoration of Neighborhood Fire Services" (C.F. 11-0600).

As the City Council adds resources to the Department, the people of Los Angeles must be confident that managers are optimally operating the Department. The people of Los Angeles must have a clear understanding of what the Department's response times are and what those times truly mean in terms of public safety. In order to get this clear understanding, the Department's response times should be analyzed by a third-party expert.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council direct the Chief Administrative Officer and the Chief Legislative Analyst to contract with an appropriate third-party to analyze past and current Los Angeles Fire Department response times, including during full deployment, modified coverage (MCP), and the current deployment plan. This analysis should include an accurate accounting of response times, a report on how these numbers measure against best practices throughout the nation, and recommendations on how to improve response times, specifically through equipment, technology, personnel and changes in management practices.

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