



ERIC GARCETTI

COUNCILMEMBER • LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL • DISTRICT 13

March 23, 2012

Honorable Members of the Public Safety Committee

Re: Council File 12-0395-S2

Date: 3/23/12
Submitted in PUBLIC SAFETY Committee
Council File No: 12-0395-52
Item No.: _____
Deputy: Adam R. Lid

Dear Colleagues:

The importance of the public safety services provided by the Los Angeles Fire Department cannot be overstated. While the commitment and performance of the Department's firefighters is beyond question, the Department's management of response times is currently in dispute.

During last year's budget deliberations I led the Council in rejecting the 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). In addition, the deployment plan approved by Council provided Department management with increased numbers of firefighters, paramedics and various equipment. Council expected the Department to use these increased resources to decrease response times.

The people of Los Angeles deserve certainty that the Department's data are accurate, and moreover that they will be well-served during emergencies.

Accordingly, I urge you to support my motion (C.F. 12-0395-S2) for an independent expert analysis so that we can determine actual response times and what those times mean in terms of public safety. And we seek recommendations as to what the Department can do to do better.

I urge your support for this motion.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



ERIC GARCETTI
Councilmember, 13th District