

Your **PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

reports as follows:

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT relative to seeking an independent third party review and analysis of the Fire Department's emergency response time statistics.

Recommendations for Council action, as initiated by Motion (Perry – Englander):

1. INSTRUCT the Fire Department to seek an independent third party review and analysis of the Department's emergency response time statistics.
2. DIRECT the Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA) to report with an estimate of the cost to use a consulting firm already under contract with the City of Los Angeles to conduct the proposed independent review.

Fiscal Impact Statement: None submitted. Neither the City Administrative Officer (CAO) nor the CLA has completed a financial analysis of this report.

Community Impact Statement: None submitted.

SUMMARY

On March 20, 2012, Council considered Motion (Perry – Englander) relative to seeking an independent third party review and analysis of the Fire Department's emergency response time statistics. Motion states that, 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. Motion makers believe that 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.

Motion makers go on to state that 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.

According to the Motion makers, the Fire 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. Council referred Motion to the Public Safety Committee for consideration.

At its special meeting held March 23, 2012, the Public Safety Committee discussed this matter with a representative of the CLA. Sources of funding for third party analysis of other City

programs, such as the construction of the new Police Department headquarters and Department of Water and Power (DWP) rate increases were discussed. Councilmember Perry asked the CLA to report back with the cost of using consultants already under contract with the City of Los Angeles with the necessary expertise to conduct review and analysis of the Department's emergency response time statistics, such as PA Consulting, the firm used to analyze proposed DWP rate increases.

Councilmembers Zine and Buscaino questioned the need for the City to expend funds for a third-party analysis. It was recommended instead that City Officers such as the Controller, CAO, and CLA conduct the review of Fire Department response time statistics. Committee recommended that Council approve Motion, as amended to include the direction for the CLA's report.

Respectfully submitted,

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

- NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS -

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
ENGLANDER:	YES
PERRY:	YES
BUSCAINO:	YES
KREKORIAN:	YES
ZINE:	YES

JAW
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