

MOTION

According to recent reports, the Fire Department (LAFD) has fallen seriously behind on required safety inspections for large buildings, including large apartment buildings, schools, hospitals, hotels, and various other structures. Most large buildings are generally required to be inspected on an annual basis, with larger buildings requiring two inspections each year. Inspectors ensure that fire safety equipment, such as alarms, fire doors that close automatically and sprinkler systems, works as designed in case of a fire. This equipment can degrade quickly, and it is difficult to know if the equipment works without the required inspections.

The first responsibility of the LAFD isn't to put out the fire, it is to prevent the fire from happening in the first place. This inspection backlog puts lives across the City at risk, and the Department must work to address this issue and take all steps necessary to eliminate this backlog.

In the face of massive budget reductions, in recent years the LAFD has been forced to work with reduced staff, outdated technology, and rely more heavily on overtime to meet its basic staffing needs. While the department is rebuilding under the leadership of Chief Terrazas who has astutely used the FireSTAT LA model to improve response times and create operational efficiencies, there is still more to be done.

LAFD should utilize FireSTAT LA to assess this issue and prioritize inspections, taking into account the length of time that has passed since a building's last inspection, the type of building and its use, and the age of the building.

Further, the Department should determine what kind of resources can be used to help address this backlog, including outside agency inspectors and other individuals who are qualified to conduct these types of inspections.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Fire Department (LAFD) report at the next Public Safety Committee on options to catch up on inspections, including the use of outside fire safety inspectors, hiring Los Angeles County fire safety inspectors on a temporary basis, temporarily bringing back retired personnel, and partnering with the Department of Building and Safety to conduct fire safety inspections, as well as any other strategies that can be implemented to address the backlog in an effective manner.

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