

**Los Angeles Fire Department Historical Society
And William Rolland Educational Institute**



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The LAFD Historical
Society is a Non-
Profit 501c3
Organization
(Federal Tax
ID # 95-4680410)

June 21, 2018

Los Angeles City Council
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Councilmember,

I have been made aware of an effort to amend Councilmember Englander's motion to install memorial street signs for Los Angeles Fire Department members who have died in the line of duty at, or as a result of, a Los Angeles Fire Department incident. The objection is that the signs for members that died prior to 1975 to have their rank changed from Firemen to Firefighter or Auto Firemen to Apparatus Operator. As the President of the Los Angeles Fire Department Historical Society, I must strenuously protest this action.

The members that died between 1895 and 1975, when the rank titles were changed, must be memorialized with their rank at the time of their death. The Historical Society is interested in preserving history not revising it. I am sure that any surviving family members would agree. This is how the LAFD Memorial Wall is inscribed and the Memorial Street Signs should follow suit. There is a Lieutenant on this list, a rank we have not had since 1929, and no one is asking that his rank be changed to Captain, the equivalent rank now.

Sixty two members have died in the line of duty and will be memorialized with these street signs. It is unthinkable to change history to satisfy a few people. It is as wrong as trying to change all of the members to Fireman or Auto Fireman.

I respectfully request that you let the unanimously passed motion of Councilmember Englander stand and I implore you not to revise history by amending it.

James R. Finn

James R. Finn, President
Los Angeles Fire Department Historical Society



**LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT
CHIEF OFFICERS ASSOCIATION**

POST OFFICE BOX 532287 - LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90053-2287 - (323) 255-2276

June 22, 2018

Los Angeles City Council
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Honorable Councilmembers:

The Los Angeles Fire Department Chief Officers Association (COA) supports the motion which was unanimously approved by the City Council (CF14-0560-S1) on May 23, 2018, to honor our personnel killed in the line of duty with honorary street signs and that their name, rank and historic job classification at the time of death be embossed on these signs so that generations to come will know who they were, what they stood for and how they died in the service to our great city.

Respectfully,

The COA Executive Board.

Andrew P. Fox
President

cc: President Tony Gamboa, UFLAC – IAFF Local 112
Deputy Mayor Jeff Gorell
Board of Fire Commissioners



UNITED FIREFIGHTERS of LOS ANGELES CITY

Local 112 IAFF AFL-CIO-CLC

June 22, 2018

Los Angeles City Council
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Honorable Councilmembers:

As President of United Firefighters of Los Angeles City (UFLAC), representing the over 3,300 Firefighters, Paramedics, Inspectors and Dispatchers of the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD), I would first like to thank you for your decision to unanimously approve motion CF 14-0560-S1 on May 23, 2018 that directs the City to install street signs honoring fallen members of the LAFD. We strongly agree that these signs will provide an ongoing memorial to the brave individuals who have paid the ultimate sacrifice to keep our City safe.

I am writing today to express the unanimous support of the UFLAC Executive Board for maintaining historical accuracy with these signs. This would include referring to those who were killed in the line of duty with their rank at the time of their passing. These ranks will include "Fireman," "Auto Fireman," and of course, "Firefighter," "Inspector," etc. after the titles were officially changed by the LAFD.

We understand that there are some members of the LAFD who support using the blanket term "Firefighter" for all of these tragic deaths. While we respect the opinion of those who might disagree with us, the fact of the matter is that the rank of "Firefighter" simply did not exist prior to 1975. As we honor the memories of those who paid the ultimate sacrifice for the people of Los Angeles, it is important to commemorate the legacies of these individuals by memorializing them with the actual rank that they held at the time of their passing.

UFLAC has a long and very active history of supporting women in the LAFD and efforts to provide equal opportunity and inclusion for everyone. We are proud to support the LAFD Girls Camp each year and to consistently advocate for greater gender equity and ethnic diversity in recruiting for our department. Thankfully, the LAFD is a different department today than we were decades ago, as we have made significant progress towards inclusion in our ranks. While there is still work to be done in this regard, it is not appropriate to rewrite history in an effort to change or gloss over our past.

UFLAC is proud to stand with the LAFD Historical Society, the LAFD Chief Officers, and many others in asking the City Council to uphold the original motion that was unanimously supported last month and reject any amendments that would change the written rank of those LAFD members who were killed in the line of duty.

On behalf of the proud members of United Firefighters of Los Angeles City Local 112, we thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Tony Gambora
President
United Firefighters of Los Angeles City

TM/mr
opeiu #537/afl-cio-clc

CC: Board of Fire Commissioners
Deputy Mayor Jeff Gorell

