



ERIC GARCETTI
MAYOR

May 3, 2016

Honorable Members of the City Council
c/o City Clerk
Room 395, City Hall

Re: Appointment of Permanent General Manager, Emergency Management Department:
Aram Sahakian

Dear Honorable Members:

Pursuant to City Charter Section 508 (b), I appoint Mr. Aram Sahakian as the permanent General Manager, Emergency Management Department, effective as of the date of your confirmation of this appointment.

This permanent appointment is being made concurrent with my separate letter of appointment of Mr. Sahakian as the Interim General Manager, Emergency Management Department, effective May 16, 2016.

Attached please find a copy of his biography which provides greater detail about his experience. I am confident that Mr. Aram Sahakian will make an outstanding General Manager of the Emergency Management Department. I look forward to your favorable consideration of his appointment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'E. Garcetti', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

ERIC GARCETTI
Mayor

EG:mm

Attachment

cc: The Honorable Mitchell Englander, Chair, Public Safety Committee
Miguel Santana, CAO
Wendy Macy, Personnel Department
Maritta Aspen, Office of the CAO
Heather Holt, Ethics Commission
Holly Wolcott, City Clerk
Sharon Tso, CLA
Phyllis Lynes, Personnel Department
Errol Griffin, Office of the CAO
Shannon Prior, Ethics Commission
General Managers' Association

Aram Sahakian**Transportation Engineer, Special Traffic Operations and Emergency Response Division
Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT)**

Aram Sahakian has been leading the Special Traffic Operations and Emergency Response Division responsible for managing all LADOT strategies for emergency response, homeland security programs and major special events in the City of Los Angeles for more than two decades. He also has directed several other divisions at the Department, including Metro Rail Construction and the Automated Traffic Surveillance and Control Center (ATSAC).

Aram currently directs the LADOT's emergency response activities ensuring implementation of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and the Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS). He has developed and trained a cadre of emergency response personnel and has been appointed as the Department's Director for the City's Emergency Operations Center. He also created and established the Department's Operations Center (DOC).

Aram has extensive training in emergency preparedness and response programs. He has advanced certifications in numerous FEMA emergency preparedness and Homeland Security's Integrated Emergency Management Preparedness and Response programs. At the state level, Aram has trained at the Governor's Office of Emergency Services, California Specialized Training Institute, earning certifications for the National Incident Management System, Emergency Services Coordinator, Standardized Emergency Management System.

In addition, he has trained at the National Emergency Management Institute (EMI) at the Department of Homeland Security in Maryland and at the Texas A&M Fire and Emergency Services Training Center (TEEX), earning certifications in Incident Management/Unified Command, Integrated Emergency Management Preparedness and Response, All Hazards Mitigation, Homeland Security, and Terrorism Preparedness. He also has trained at the Department of Homeland Security in Anniston, Alabama, earning his certification in the Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) program.

Aram has served as Incident Commander of dozens of major incidents in a Unified Command structure alongside the LAPD and the LAFD. Some of the major activations have included the post-9/11 LAX closure of the central terminal area, the Metrolink Chatsworth railway disaster, the 1994 Northridge Earthquake, the 2008 Marek and Sesnon wildfires, among others. His experience in emergency planning and preparedness extends to securing funding for the Department's special events and emergency response programs, including successful applications for the City's Emergency Operations Fund, Homeland Security grants, and Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) grants.

In charge of the Special Traffic Operations and Emergency Response Division since 2001, Aram has worked in close coordination with other city, state and federal agencies to direct and supervise the planning and execution of complex traffic management and security plans for U.S. Presidential motorcades, political conventions and gatherings, First Amendment marches, events at venues requiring infrastructure protection, the transportation of the Space Shuttle Endeavour, as well as such large-scale productions as the LA Marathon, LA Triathlon, the Grammys, the

Academy Awards, the 2015 Special Olympics, the 405 Freeway Closure (Carmageddon) and the 101 Freeway Closure for the demolition of the 6th Street Bridge.

Throughout his career, Aram has cultivated a broad network of relationships among City departments, agencies, private sector entities, community organizations, Neighborhood Councils and grassroots stakeholders through his work on many successful citywide initiatives where he applied his unique skills in managing multi-stakeholder environments and situations.

Aram's wealth of experience in managing the Department's major special events and emergencies has made him a recognized leader in devising effective approaches for handling large volumes of events, customizing procedures and developing strategies specific to the types of incidents for better management and efficiency. His methodology has been successful in ensuring public safety and traffic circulation/mobility while remaining responsive to requests and concerns by City officials, community and business organizations and other public agencies. His leadership in managing the diversity of events and emergencies has positioned the LADOT as a role model in this specialized field. As a thought leader on this front, Aram has spoken to audiences nationally and internationally at the Institute of Transportation Engineers, Federal Highway Administration, Transportation Research Board and National Homeland Security Conferences.

Aram is a graduate of the University of Southern California School of Engineering and holds a Professional License in Transportation Engineering.