

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR, PERSONNEL AND ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE relative to authorizing the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) to accept the 2017 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grants award to staff a light force in Wilmington (Fire Station 38).

Recommendations for Council action, SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE MAYOR:

1. AUTHORIZE the LAFD to:

- a. Spend up to the Fiscal Year (FY) 17 SAFER Grant amount total of \$7,492,023 in accordance with the grant award agreement, in addition to further City costs necessary to fully implement a Light Force.
- b. Submit grant reimbursement requests to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and deposit grant funds received into LAFD Grants Fund No. 335, Department 38.

2. AUTHORIZE the Controller to:

- a. Establish a grant receivable and appropriate up to \$4,620,082 to an appropriation account, number to be determined (TBD), in Fund No. 335/38 for the receipt and disbursement of the FY 17 SAFER Grant funds.
- b. Transfer appropriations, as needed, from Fund 335/38, account number No. TBD, to Fund 100/38, Account No. 1012, Salaries Sworn, or Account 1030, Sworn Bonuses, upon submission of proper documentation by the LAFD, subject to approval of the City Administrative Officer (CAO), of direct costs incurred during the grant performance period.
- c. Transfer FY 17 SAFER Grant funds from Fund No. 335/38 to Fund No. 100/38, Revenue Source Code 5346, Reimbursement of Grant Related Costs, for fringe benefits and related costs upon submission of proper documentation by LAFD, subject to CAO approval, of related costs incurred during the grant performance period.

3. RESOLVE that the 21 Firefighter III positions, Class Code 2112-3 are APPROVED and CONFIRMED from January 7, 2019 through June 30, 2019, subject to allocation by the Civil Service Commission.

4. AUTHORIZE the LAFD to request the reallocation of nine Firefighter positions to Fire Captain Engineer and Apparatus Operator.

5. INSTRUCT the LAFD, with assistance of the CAO, to request Council approval for approval of any plans to modify the FY 17 SAFER Grant program to add resources or change the deployment of SAFER-funded position authorities.

6. AUTHORIZE the LAFD and Controller, based on LAFD submissions to the CAO of grant

budget modifications approved by FEMA, to transfer funds, as needed, between Fund No. 335/38 and Fund No. 100/38 for implementation of the FY 17 SAFER Grant.

7. AUTHORIZE the LAFD to prepare Controller instructions for any technical adjustments, subject to CAO approval; and, AUTHORIZE the Controller to implement the instructions.

Fiscal Impact Statement: The Board of Fire Commissioners reports that the SAFER Grant project cost is estimated at \$11.6 million with the Federal cost share of up to \$4.6 million (40 percent) and City cost share of approximately \$7 million (60 percent) through the grant performance period of January 7, 2019 through January 6, 2022. The SAFER Grant will provide financial assistance toward the restoration of a Light Force resource. Grant disbursements are on a reimbursement basis of actual salary and fringe benefits costs.

Community Impact Statement: None submitted.

(Also referred to the Public Safety Committee)

Summary:

On November 21, 2018, the Chair of the Personnel and Animal Welfare Committee considered a November 6, 2018 Board of Fire Commissioners (Board) report relative to authorizing the LAFD to accept the 2017 SAFER Grant award to staff a light force in Wilmington (Fire Station 38). According to the LAFD, on August 24, 2018, the LAFD was notified that its application for the 2017 SAFER Grant was approved in the amount of \$4,620,082. Coupled with City matching funds, the LAFD will be able to hire additional personnel to staff Light Force 38 in Wilmington. The Grant performance period covers three years, from January 7, 2019 through January 6, 2022, during which the City would commit to hiring 21 new full-time sworn positions above the current staffing level of 2,846 positions. Under terms of the grant, FEMA reimburses the City on a cost share basis of 75 percent of expenditures in the first two years and 35 percent in the third year, for a maximum reimbursement of \$4,620,082. In compliance with Los Angeles Administrative Code Section 14.6 relative to grants requiring City matching funds, acceptance of the 2017 SAFER Grant was approved during the Council meeting of September 7, 2018.

The goal of SAFER is to enhance local fire departments' ability to comply with staffing, response and operational standards established by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). SAFER grants are offered to support projects to hire new, additional Firefighters to improve staffing levels and are limited to fire suppression resources (Engines and Light Force Trucks only). In 2016, the LAFD was awarded \$15,468,782 to staff four new Engines in Echo Park, Lincoln Heights, Reseda and Mission Hills. After consideration, the Committee Chair moved to recommend approval of the recommendations contained in the Board report and detailed above. This matter is submitted to Council for its consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

COUNCILMEMBER PAUL KORETZ, CHAIR
PERSONNEL AND ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
KORETZ:	YES
HARRIS-DAWSON:	ABSENT
ENGLANDER:	ABSENT

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11/21/18

-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-