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April 23, 2018

Honorable Paul Krekorian
Chair, Budget and Finance Committee
c/o Richard Williams, Legislative Assistant
Office of the City Clerk
200 N. Main Street, Room 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Councilmember Krekorian:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the Mayor's Fiscal Year 2018-19 Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) Proposed Budget. My most sincere appreciation is extended to Mayor Garcetti for a budget with a year-over increase of \$18.8 million to enhance the LAFD's ability to make our communities the safest in the nation.

The Proposed Budget provides funding for three Recruit Academy classes to add 195 new Firefighters. The budget also secures the City's share of the SAFER grant awarded in 2017 for 48 firefighter positions for four engine companies, a major stride toward restoring prior years' staffing levels. The Budget also supports new and continuing initiatives including staffing support for the Cannabis Inspection program and reinforcing partnerships with area hospital organizations for expansion of the successful Advanced Provider Response Unit (APRU) program. Funding is also provided to continue the Department's technology strategic plan goals toward upgrading and enhancing deployment and communication systems (Fire Station Alerting System and Network Staffing System). The Budget is also responsive to a continuing pattern of year round high fire hazard conditions through additional funding for sworn overtime for wildland deployments and brush clearance.

Per your instructions, I have identified 10 critical areas below that were not funded in the Proposed Budget.

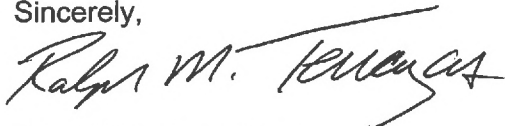
1. **Variable Staffing OT for Recruit Training Section - \$768,240:** Equivalent to approximately 12,000 V-hours enabling such activities as Candidate Assistance Program, Recruit Remedial Training Program, Field Training Program.
2. **EITs for Battalions 2 (CD 14), 6 (CD 15), 17 (CD 3) - \$375,000:** Three months funding to complete restoration of EITs to all Battalions.
3. **BLS/ALS Rescue Ambulance Variable Staffing - \$400,000:** Funding to provide variable staffing to improve response times (RA 887 – CD 12, RA 862 – CD11, RA 883 – CD 5).

4. **Fast Response Vehicles - \$375,417:** Position authority and funding for four FF III/PM on 4/10 schedule to staff FRV 64 (CD 8) and FRV 91 (CD 7) to address call load and to improve response times.
5. **Operations Valley Bureau Headquarters Offices – Capital Improvement Expenditure Program (CIEP):** FY 2018-19 (Phase 1) - \$1M for Environmental Impact Report (EIR); FY 2019-20 (Phase 2) - \$1.55M for construction
6. **Helicopter - \$18M:** MICLA funding to add 5th medium duty helicopter to enable the availability of three helicopters at all times; OR

Erickson Helitanker Contract - \$831,526: Funding to increase helitanker services for an additional 30 days.
7. **Annual software licenses, maintenance & support - \$467,013:** Funding for licenses for dispatch and administrative systems required for daily LAFD operations.
8. **CUPA Cannabis Inspection Program (Fee Supported) - \$236,661:** Funding and position authority for one Fire Captain I and one Management Analyst II to provide Program supervision and administrative support, respectively.
9. **Critical Communications Staffing -** Position authority with no funding for one Communications Electrician to provide consistent and timely maintenance of mobile and portable communications devices by properly managing radio frequencies, managing software and firmware updates and service notices, test new software before applied to the field, and assist ITA staff with configuration, support and troubleshooting of LAFD's voice and data radio systems.
10. **Pharmacist for Controlled Medications –** Position authority with no funding for one Pharmacist to procure, stock and store controlled medications in automated med stations placed in LAFD Geographic Bureaus. Pharmacist position is required due to LA County Department of Health Services ceasing to supply controlled medications to local fire agencies from County-operated hospital pharmacies.

I look forward to discussing the above issues with the members of the Budget and Finance Committee and the City Council. I am aware the City is still facing significant fiscal challenges. Therefore, I appreciate your consideration of my requests to enhance firefighter and public safety if additional funding is available.

Sincerely,



RALPH M. TERRAZAS
Fire Chief