

MOTION

PERSONNEL & ANIMAL WELFARE

The Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) is responsible for preserving life and property of approximately 4 million people spread out over 471 square miles in the City of Los Angeles. LAFD's force includes over 1,000 uniformed firefighters always on duty at fire department facilities citywide, including 106 neighborhood fire stations strategically located throughout the City.

Every day, the LAFD responds to more than 1,000 emergency calls, amassing to hundreds of thousands of incidents or individual calls for service every year. One of the City's most taxing jobs has been exacerbated in recent years by an historic increase in wildfires, as attested by the 2018 Woolsey fire. LAFD also lends its manpower and resources to other Fire Departments in the case of major crises, like the Mendocino Complex, Camp, and Carr fires that devastated many communities across the state last year.

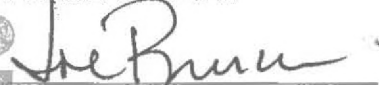
Firefighters routinely witness horrific, traumatic events and operate in a culture that rewards bold action and bravery. Demanding, on-and-off schedules comprised of long on-call hours, typically in 24-hour shifts, and missed family time further contribute to sleep deprivation and stress. As a result, firefighters very frequently experience behavioral health issues such as depression, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), anxiety and addictions, and beyond.

Federal data shows that suicide rates amongst firefighters increased by 28 percent from 1999 to 2016, steadily increasing every year. According to a 2018 national survey of more than 7,000 firefighters, 65% indicated they are still severely traumatized by on-the-job incidents, 27% struggled with substance abuse, and 19% reported having suicidal thoughts. Another recent national study revealed that 20% of firefighters had at some point in their career planned a suicide. This data on suicidal tendencies by firefighters is nearly ten times that of the general population.

It is vitally important that our City's firefighters have access to exceptional behavioral health resources so that they can, in turn, continue to care for our City's endangered and wounded to the best of their abilities.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) and the City of Los Angeles Personnel Department be DIRECTED to report on the behavioral health resources, including awareness, prevention, intervention, and post-crisis strategies, provided to firefighters and other LAFD first-responders.

PRESENTED BY:



JOE BUSCAINO

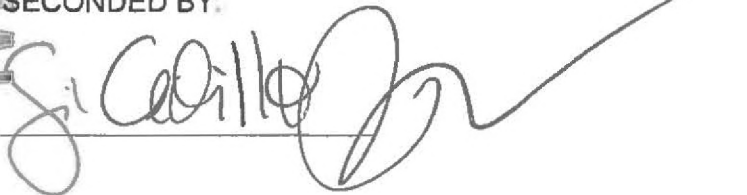
Councilmember, 15th District



MONICA RODRIGUEZ

Councilmember, 7th District

SECONDED BY:



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ORIGINAL