

MOTION

PUBLIC SAFETY

On Sunday, May 19th, the residents of the Mandeville Canyon neighborhood in Brentwood participated in a planned emergency evacuation drill coordinated by the Los Angeles Fire Department, the Los Angeles Police Department, and the Emergency Management Department (EMD), along with other relevant agencies. As residents of the canyons in the Santa Monica Mountains live in a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone, the drill was a crucial exercise in efforts to prepare both residents and first responders for potential disaster.

The drill exposed a glaring and frightening hole in emergency preparedness in the area: large numbers of residents report they were never alerted of the evacuation through the NotifyLA system, the City's highly-touted official mass notification system used to send voice messages, text messages and email messages to residents and businesses during times of emergencies and disasters. This NotifyLA failure came after weeks of efforts by local neighborhood organizations to convince residents to subscribe and participate in the drill.

NotifyLA is the City's official notification system used to alert residents in the event of a disaster and is managed by EMD. A reliable system is essential to mass communication and resident safety. A system failure for an expected drill calls into question preparedness in the face of a true emergency. This failure is gravely concerning and must be resolved immediately to ensure the City's protection.

**I THEREFORE MOVE** that the Emergency Management Department report on the extent of the NotifyLA failure, the cause of the problem, what immediate steps can be taken to ensure the system and departments are sufficiently prepared to protect the City's residents in the future, and what protocols can be established for regular and routine testing of the NotifyLA system.

**I FURTHER MOVE** that the Los Angeles Fire Department, Emergency Management Department, Police Department, and other agencies as appropriate, prepare an "after action" report on the evacuation drill, soliciting public and agency feedback, and reporting to the City Council, the Brentwood Community Council, and relevant neighborhood organizations on strengths and vulnerabilities learned from the drill, problems encountered during the drill, and recommended steps for corrective action.

PRESENTED BY:   
MIKE BONIN  
Councilmember, 11th District

SECONDED BY: 

ORIGINAL

JUN 18 2019  
