

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT relative to the findings and recommendations of the Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury Final Report for the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD).

Recommendations for Council action, as initiated by Motion (Cedillo – Buscaino – Englander):

1. APPROVE the June 28, 2013, findings of the Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury Report recommending that the LAFD's funding be reinstated to 2008 levels, that firefighters at the Dispatch Center be replaced with civilians, and that the Department's computer systems be overhauled.
2. DIRECT the LAFD to:
 - a. Report to Council with recommendations for adding additional drill tower academy classes to the Department's scheduled training classes for 2014.
 - b. Coordinate presentations to Council by Department consultants regarding FIRESTATLA and the Department's use of technology and data.
 - c. Report relative to the state of the Department's data element, with input from the Mayor's Data Liaison to the LAFD.
3. INVITE the Board of Fire Commissioners, LAFD's physician, and the United Firefighters of Los Angeles City (UFLAC) to participate in LAFD's report to Council relative to these matters.

Fiscal Impact Statement: None submitted by the LAFD. Neither the City Administrative Officer nor the Chief Legislative Analyst has completed a financial analysis of this report.

Community Impact Statement: None submitted.

SUMMARY

On July 2, 2013, Council considered Motion (Cedillo – Buscaino – Englander) relative to the findings and recommendations of the Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury Final Report for the LAFD. Motion states that since 2008, the LAFD has had severe budget cuts, resulting in temporary closures, redeployment plans, and increases in response times. On May 5, 2013, the Fire Chief implemented the Ambulance Augmentation Plan which reassigned 22 firefighters from fire apparatus to Basic Life Support ambulances. Due to concerns for firefighter safety, Council appropriated \$1.56 million for overtime from the Budget Stabilization Fund to the LAFD to retain staffing on the fire apparatus.

Motion movers state that despite efforts taken by Council to restore funding, LAFD staffing levels have yet to be restored to appropriate levels. Direction has been given to review the deployment re-configuration and its impact to the LAFD budget for the entire fiscal year. On June 28, 2013, the Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury released a report recommending that LAFD's funding be reinstated to 2008 levels, the firefighters at the Dispatch Center be replaced with civilians, and that the Department's computer systems be overhauled. Motion movers recommend that Council instruct the LAFD to report on this matter. Council referred Motion to the Public Safety Committee for consideration.

In a report to the Board of Fire Commissioners dated September 9, 2013 (attached to the Council file), the LAFD responds to the recommendations of the Grand Jury Report. The report details the impacts of the budget cuts, efforts already taken by the Department to respond to issues addressed by the Grand Jury

Report, and what issues require further analysis to proceed. On September 17, 2013, the Board considered LAFD's report.

At its meeting held December 13, 2013, the Public Safety Committee discussed this matter with LAFD personnel. Department staff reported that the five new recruit classes scheduled for 2014 will not be enough to replace firefighters lost to attrition. Negotiations are needed with UFLAC to discuss the civilianization of the dispatch center and work schedule changes. Work has begun to improve the Department's use of data to evaluate its performance and deployment needs. The consultant's initial project timeline will be presented in February, 2014.

LAFD's Physician recommended that the Department employ a customizable dispatch system protocol to better serve the needs of the City's diverse populations. Certain questions asked during calls for service are not sound and can result in a delayed response time. It was further stated that modifying the Department's Dispatch Center call protocol is a significant project with substantial funding needs.

Committee members went on to discuss the LAFD's hiring rate of new firefighters and staffing levels. The Committee Chair stated that the Department has been decimated by budget cuts that were a result of faulty response and deployment data presented by the Department, and statements that the Department could withstand proposed budget cuts. Rebuilding the Department is not just a matter of funding and reinstating staff levels to meet the service needs of the City. It requires a holistic view of the Department and correct funding decisions.

The Public Safety Committee recommended that Council approve the recommendations of the Grand Jury Report. Committee further recommended that LAFD report to Council with recommendations for adding additional drill tower academy classes; coordinate presentations to Council by Department consultants regarding FIRESTATLA and the Department's use of technology and data; and, on the state of the Department's data element, with input from the Mayor's Data Liaison to the LAFD. It was further recommended that Council request that the LAFD's report to Council include the Board of Fire Commissioners, LAFD's physician, and UFLAC.

Respectfully Submitted,

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
ENGLANDER:	YES
BUSCAINO:	ABSENT
BONIN:	ABSENT
O'FARRELL	YES
MARTINEZ:	YES

-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-