

13-0910

JUL 26 2013

MOTION

PUBLIC SAFETY

The City's public safety agencies have an important responsibility to encourage and promote emergency and disaster preparedness for communities citywide. The Police and Fire Departments, by virtue of their size and geographic spread, are able to communicate this message to various segments of the City's population. Further, the Emergency Management Department is responsible for the coordination of the City's emergency planning, training, response and recovery efforts in the midst of major disasters and other emergency events.

Despite these efforts, however, the realities of a city the size of Los Angeles mean that in the event of a widespread disaster, first responder resources may be stretched thin. Therefore, it is paramount that communities have access to preparedness resources and training that can increase both their readiness for disasters and their ability to recover. This can then enable first responders to be in a better position to respond to areas and situations of the most critical nature.

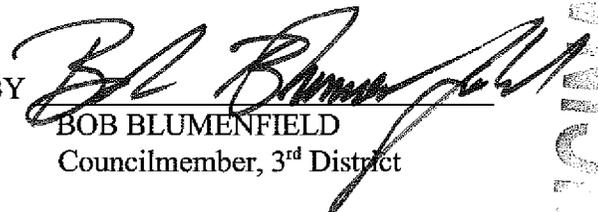
The City already has successful programs that have proven their value for increasing community preparedness. The Fire Department offers the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training which provides community self-sufficiency through the development of multi-functional response teams that can act as an adjunct to local emergency services during major disasters. CERT training includes learning to suppress small fires, basic first aid, evacuation tactics and how to collaborate with city agencies to support neighborhood exits, search tactics, and communications.

In addition, the Emergency Management Department offers periodic training preparedness programs for external stakeholders, such as neighborhood councils and through partnerships with community-based organizations. The development of specific emergency plans tailored to these populations further increases the City's overall preparedness.

As these efforts continue, it is important to identify new, and potentially underserved, segments of the population that can benefit from emergency preparedness training. These segments include youth and teens, seniors, disabled and functional needs, and homeless. Building upon past successes will ensure that the population citywide is able to adequately prepare for and respond to disasters and emergencies.

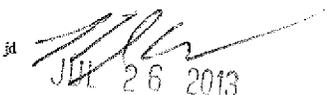
I THEREFORE MOVE that the Fire Department and Emergency Management Department be instructed to report with recommendations for establishing training programs geared toward specific segments of the population, including teens/youth, seniors, disabled, and homeless persons.

PRESENTED BY


BOB BLUMENFIELD
Councilmember, 3rd District

SECONDED BY




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