

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT relative to proposed decisions and recommendations for 2013 Brush Clearance Assessment Appeals.

Recommendation for Council action:

CONFIRM the 2013 Brush Clearance Assessments, as recommended by the Board of Fire Commissioners at its meeting held July 15, 2014, and as contained in the 2013 Brush Clearance Assessment Hearings Report, Proposed Decisions, and Recommendations (attached to the Council file).

Fiscal Impact Statement: The Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) reports property owners are assessed an administrative fee of \$938.00 and the cost of clearance to abate the hazard for failure to comply with brush clearance requirements. The average cost of clearance is \$800 to \$1200. For the 2013 brush season, 61 appeal requests were received from property owners electing to appeal their assessments. Of the 61 appeals received, 20 were granted or reduced. The Brush Clearance Assessment Hearings estimated total revenue is \$159,179.00.

Community Impact Statement: None submitted.

SUMMARY

In a report to the Board of Fire Commissioners dated June 26, 2014, the LAFD presents the proposed decision and recommendation for the 2013 Brush Clearance Assessment Appeals. LAFD states that invoices setting forth the cost of abatement, administrative fee, and/or a noncompliance fee were mailed to property owners.

The Brush Clearance Unit held the 2013 Brush Clearance Assessment Appeals at the Marvin Braude Center from April 21 through May 8, 2014. The Department received 61 requests from property owners who chose to appeal the imposed assessment. Hearing Officers considered the evidence and received testimony from departmental personnel with respect to the existence of a nuisance and cost of abatement. Of the 61 appeals received, 20 were granted or received reduced total assessment amounts, as indicated in LAFD's report to the Board. The Board approved LAFD's recommendations. Upon Council approval, LAFD's proposed assessments will be placed on the Los Angeles County 2014 Tax rolls.

At its meeting held August 8, 2014, the Public Safety Committee considered this matter. LAFD Brush Clearance Unit staff was in attendance. A written appeal was submitted for the parcel identified as Assessor's I.D. No. 2032008002. A verbal appeal was presented for the parcel identified as Assessor's I.D. No. 4382001023. The Committee upheld the recommendations of the LAFD Brush Clearance Unit, denying both appeals inasmuch as no new information was presented to justify the reduction or waiving of the recommended total assessment amounts. The Committee recommended that Council approve the 2013 Brush Clearance Assessment Hearings Report, Proposed Decisions, and Recommendations.

Respectfully Submitted,

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

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

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-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-