

COMMUNICATION FROM CHAIR AND MEMBER, PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE relative to installing backup and right turn cameras, and integrated audio systems on all Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) apparatus.

Recommendation for Council action, as initiated by Motion (Englander – Blumenfield):

1. DIRECT the LAFD to:
  - a. Provide an analysis of the feasibility of requiring backup and right turn cameras, as well as speakers and microphones that allow LAFD personnel to communicate with individuals behind their vehicles, on newly purchased fire apparatus, and the cost of installing these types of safety devices on apparatus currently in the fleet.
  - b. Report to the Public Safety Committee with a plan for installing this equipment on all existing vehicles in the Department's fleet.
2. REQUIRE all purchases of new fire apparatus engines include back-up and right turn cameras, and rear audio.

Fiscal Impact Statement: 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 February 20, 2015, Council considered Motion (Englander – Blumenfield) relative to installing backup and right turn cameras, and integrated audio systems on all LAFD apparatus. Motion states that LAFD apparatus are the largest vehicles in the City's fleet, and care must be taken when backing them up, making turns, or maneuvering through crowds, in order to ensure that emergency personnel can arrive on scene in a safe manner. The size of these apparatus, as well as the locations of blind spots, can make this a dangerous task, especially if individuals behind or around an apparatus are unaware that it is going to move.

Motion movers go on to state that there have been remarkable technological advancements in side and rear facing cameras for all types of vehicles, including fire apparatus. The addition of this type of safety equipment enables an operator to clearly see what is around them and nearly eliminates blind spots. This technology gives fire personnel operating apparatus equipped with it the ability to efficiently maneuver their apparatus in a safe manner, in all types of environments.

Motion movers further state that microphones and loudspeakers connected to apparatus can enable fire personnel to quickly alert individuals around the apparatus when it is going to move. Motion movers believe that the City should study the feasibility of using these types of safety equipment, both on apparatus currently in the fleet, and in the future on newly purchased apparatus. Council referred Motion to the Public Safety Committee for consideration.

At the Public Safety Committee meeting held May 8, 2015, the Committee Chair and Member discussed this matter with a representative of LAFD. The Department representative stated side

and rear cameras have been installed in 75 of the Department's 197 vehicles. In addition, 122 ambulances are equipped with the cameras.

Committee members urged the Department to review the technology used by other fire and safety agencies, and to research the use of voice activated audio systems to enable easy communication between the fire apparatus cab and firefighters at the rear of the trucks. The Committee Chair and member recommended that Council approve Motion, as amended to require all purchases of new fire apparatus engines include back-up and right turn cameras, and rear audio, and to direct LAFD to report with a plan for installing side and rear cameras on the Department's existing fleet.

Respectfully Submitted,

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE



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

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**-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-**