

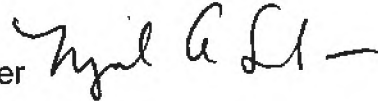
CITY OF LOS ANGELES
INTER-DEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

0220-05199-0000

Date: October 19, 2015

To: The Public Safety Committee
The Budget and Finance Committee

From: Miguel A. Santana, City Administrative Officer



Subject: **2015-16 ADOPTED BUDGET REQUESTED REPORT (C.F. 15-0600-S14) -
SIXTH FIREFIGHTER RECRUIT CLASS**

During the Fiscal Year 2015-16 budget deliberations, the Council instructed our Office, with the assistance of the Personnel Department to report back on the requirements and costs to implement a sixth Firefighter training class for paramedics, only. The report would also discuss the feasibility of using retired Firefighters to conduct the paramedic training.

In preparing this response, we consulted with the Fire and Personnel Departments to provide detailed information on the process, resources required and feasibility of implementing a sixth Firefighter recruit class consisting primarily of candidates with a current paramedic license. The intent of this paramedic-only recruit class would be to further reduce the projected 289 field vacancies resulting from the regular retirement of sworn members and those leaving the fire service through the Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP). The attached memo from the Fire Chief provides an overview of the currently funded academy class structure and the feasibility of adding a sixth paramedic class. The Fire Department states that adding a sixth recruit class would cost approximately \$3.1 million and would require a General Fund appropriation to the Department in 2015-16. The memo also summarizes the feasibility and restrictions of utilizing retired Firefighters to conduct the paramedic training, and the recruiting challenges associated with a paramedic-only class.

As your respective Committees consider this matter, it should be noted that the information provided in this report, if approved, will require budgetary resources during 2015-16, with on-going costs in future years. In that context, we will be issuing our First Financial Status Report (FSR) of this fiscal year later this month. The FSR will provide the status of the current year budget and projections of revenues and expenditures. The FSR will also highlight projected individual departmental budget shortfalls that will require continued monitoring and the identification of possible solutions prior to the end of the fiscal year. Among the departmental shortfalls, the Fire Department is projecting an approximate \$15.8 million year-end deficit.

Further, as outlined in the 2015-16 Adopted Budget Four-Year Outlook, we note that the City will face budget gaps of \$89.8 million in Fiscal Year 2016-17 and \$51 million in Fiscal Year 2017-18. The Outlook also assumes that each year's shortfall will be solved

through on-going rather than one-time solutions. Additionally, the Outlook does not reflect the recent policy discussions to commit \$100 million to address homelessness throughout the City. Based upon the current and projected fiscal conditions, the availability of any discretionary funding for other purposes, including interim budget requests, is severely limited.

Our Office will continue to monitor these issues and make adjustments to the fiscal forecast in the upcoming months as the assumptions in the 2015-16 Adopted Budget Outlook change.

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Attachment