

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT relative to the Woolsey Fire after-action review.

Recommendation for Council action, pursuant to Motion (Blumenfield - Harris-Dawson):

NOTE and FILE the February 21, 2020 Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) report relative to the Woolsey Fire after-action review.

Fiscal Impact Statement: Not applicable.

Community Impact Statement: None submitted.

Summary:

On December 6, 2019, a Motion (Blumenfield - Harris-Dawson) was introduced relative to instructing the LAFD, with the assistance of the Emergency Management Department, Los Angeles Police Department and any other relevant City Departments, to review the Los Angeles County After Action Review of the Woolsey Fire Incident, and report its findings and on any lessons learned that could be applied to future emergency responses in the City. According to the Motion, the Woolsey Fire broke out on November 8, 2018 near the Ventura County line and quickly spread into Los Angeles County. The fire eventually burned nearly 97,000 acres, destroyed over 1,600 structures, required the evacuation of more than 250,000 people and caused three deaths. This fire was one of the most destructive wildfires in California history, and broke out during a period of extreme fire activity in California, which limited the resources available to respond.

While the Woolsey Fire primarily impacted areas served by the Los Angeles County Fire Department, the LAFD contributed significant resources to fighting it, as did other fire agencies. In the wake of the Woolsey Fire, the County retained an outside firm with expertise in wildfire analysis to review the causes and origin of the fire, as well as the deployment of firefighting resources, evacuation notification procedures, communications and other response metrics, and to report with lessons learned and steps to be taken to better ensure an adequate response to future wildfire incidents. The final report was released in November 2019. As the City also faces threats of wildfires in similar terrain as the areas burned in the Woolsey Fire, it is important that relevant City departments review the after-action review of the Woolsey Fire Incident, and report on any findings that could be applied to future wildfires.

Subsequently, on August 11, 2020, your Committee considered a February 21, 2020 LAFD report in response to the Motion. Representatives from the LAFD gave a presentation in regard to the County's findings and answered questions from the Committee members. After consideration and having provided an opportunity for public comment, the Committee moved to note and file the LAFD report. This matter is now submitted to Council for its consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

| <u>MEMBER</u> | <u>VOTE</u> |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| RODRIGUEZ: | YES |
| O'FARRELL: | YES |
| BUSCAINO: | YES |
| RYU: | YES |
| LEE: | YES |

ARL
8/11/20

-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-