

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT relative to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the upcoming wildfire season.

Recommendation for Council action, as initiated by Motion (Rodriguez - Price):

NOTE and FILE the June 17, 2020 Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) report, inasmuch as the report is for information only no Council action is required.

Fiscal Impact Statement: Not applicable

Community Impact Statement: None submitted.

Summary:

On June 25, 2020, your Committee considered a June 17, 2020 LAFD report in response to Motion (Rodriguez - Price) relative to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the upcoming wildfire season. According to the Motion, as California's wildfire, season approaches, the continued novel coronavirus outbreak is likely to make preparation and response even more difficult. Across the state, a number of fire departments have had to cancel training exercises and mitigation work, such as brush clearance and controlled burns. While these steps are necessary to reduce the spread of COVID-19, they put the state at a disadvantage as fire season starts. In addition, a number of jurisdictions, including the City of Los Angeles, are using sites traditionally available for wildfire evacuees as temporary homeless shelters in an effort to reduce the spread of coronavirus, which may impact their ability to house people displaced during wildfires. The significant amount of late-season rain in southern California will result in an abundance of brush in the fall, a time when many public health experts believe we may see another outbreak of the novel coronavirus.

During the meeting, representatives from the LAFD provided an overview of measures taken to address the hazards of COVID-19 and its impacts on the LAFD's response to wildfires 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 forwarded to the Council for its approval.

Respectfully Submitted,

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
RODRIGUEZ:	YES
O'FARRELL:	YES

BUSCAINO: ABSENT

RYU: YES

LEE: YES

ARL

6/25/20

-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-