

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT relative to addressing the backlog of Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) safety inspections of large buildings.

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

DIRECT the LAFD to report:

- a. Relative to the backlog of safety inspections of large buildings, including the use of outside fire safety inspectors, hiring Los Angeles County fire safety inspectors on a temporary basis, temporarily bringing back retired personnel, partnering with the Department of Building and Safety to conduct fire safety inspections, and any other strategies that can be implemented to address the backlog in an effective manner.
- b. To the Budget and Finance Committee relative to the funding needed to replenish staff losses and other resource deficits necessary to fulfill the Department's inspection duties.
- c. To the Public Safety Committee on a quarterly basis relative to the status of the inspection backlog, and actions taken to reduce the backlog.

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 June 16, 2015, Council considered Motion (Englander – Buscaino) relative to addressing the backlog of LAFD safety inspections of large buildings. Motion states that LAFD has fallen seriously behind on required safety inspections for large buildings, including large apartment buildings, schools, hospitals, hotels, and various other structures. This inspection backlog puts lives across the City at risk, and LAFD must work to address this issue and take all steps necessary to eliminate this backlog.

According to the movers of the Motion, massive budget have forced LAFD to work with reduced staff, outdated technology, and rely more heavily on overtime to meet its basic staffing needs. Although Fire Chief Terrazas has astutely used the FireSTAT LA model to improve response times and create operational efficiencies, more remains to be done. Motion movers believe that LAFD should identify the resources needed to address the backlog, including the use of outside agency inspectors and other individuals who are qualified to conduct these types of inspections. Council referred Motion to the Public Safety Committee for consideration.

At its meeting held June 26, 2015, the Public Safety Committee discussed this matter with LAFD staff. The Department representative stated that over 9,000 inspections are past due. LAFD has requested authority for seven additional inspectors at a total cost of \$809,130. Training of staff had already begun in anticipation of the seven position authorities being approved. It was further stated that the Department's effort to recruit retired inspectors has not been successful.

Public Safety Committee members recommended that Council approve Motion. Committee

members further recommended that LAFD report to the Budget and Finance Committee with cost estimate for all staff and resource needs, and to the Public Safety Committee on a quarterly basis relative to the status of the inspection backlog.

Respectfully Submitted,

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE



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

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-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-