



# MIKE BONIN

City of Los Angeles  
Councilmember, Eleventh District

August 8, 2017

Councilmember Mitchell Englander  
Chair, Public Safety Committee  
200 N. Spring Street, Room 405  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**RE: C.F. 17-0612 - REPORT ON THE CURRENT STATE OF THE LAFD HELICOPTER FLEET**

Dear Councilmember Englander,

Thank you for promptly taking up the GSD report in the Public Safety Committee, in response to Motion (Bonin - Englander - Blumenfield) regarding the current state of the LAFD helicopter fleet, and the associated aircraft maintenance workload of LAPD and LADWP. Whether it is dropping water on a brush fire, airlifting a critically ill patient to the hospital, apprehending a fleeing suspect, or ensuring the reliability of our water and power delivery systems, the City's helicopter fleet is vital to the survival of the citizens of Los Angeles. It is therefore critical that we ensure the foundation for these missions - the GSD Fleet Services Heliport Maintenance Facility - is properly staffed and equipped to meet the operational needs of the Fire Department, Police Department, and Department of Water and Power.

In response to the GSD report and ongoing discussions with LAFD and LAPD, I'd like to provide the following recommendations for resolving the current maintenance backlog and adding stability to the City's helicopter fleet:

- Expedite MOA discussions between GSD and all three customer departments;
- Provide position authority and identify funding for two additional Helicopter Mechanics;
- Grant a CAO Rule 11 exemption to allow the LAFD to increase its fleet to 7 helicopters;
- Identify MICLA funding to purchase a fifth LAFD medium-lift helicopter in Fiscal Year 2018-19;
- Establish department-specific "Mandatory Minimums" for helicopter availability, to ensure operational readiness;
- Develop a position description, including the necessary qualifications and experience, for a City Aviation Manager with full authority over all City helicopter maintenance;
- Consider the need for a third-party audit of GSD Heliport Maintenance operations;
- Explore adding a swing or weekend maintenance work shift;
- Procure an industry approved system to accurately measure the imbalance between GSD labor capacity and the workload generated by the City's helicopter fleet; and
- Build increased surge capacity into GSD's staffing model to anticipate unforeseen issues and unscheduled events.

Thank you for your consideration of these recommendations. In light of the fiscal implications, I'd like to request that at the conclusion of today's hearing, this matter be referred to the Budget & Finance Committee for further discussion.

Regards,

**MIKE BONIN**  
Councilmember, 11th District

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