

PERSONNEL & ANIMAL WELFARE MOTION

The December 2017 Southern California wildfires burned 308,000 acres in total and forced the evacuation of over 230,000 people across many cities and towns. The largest of the wildfires was the Thomas fire in Ventura County which burned 281,893 acres alone. The Thomas fire grew to be the largest wildfire in modern California history.

City of Los Angeles employees who serve in the United States Armed Forces were deployed in response to these wildfires. Current City policy authorizes continuing benefits for the first 30 days of a military leave, pursuant to California's Military and Veterans Code Section 395.01.

In 2001, after the September 11 tragedy, the City Council adopted an Ordinance (No. 174284) which provided that City employees called to active military duty subsequent to the event of September 11, 2001, would receive the difference between their regular City salaries and their military salaries and would enjoy continuation of current City medical, dental and life insurance program benefits for the duration of their military assignment. The City of Los Angeles also supported similar efforts during the Iraq-Kuwait crisis in the early 1990's during the war in Bosnia in the mid-1990s, Tsunami relief efforts in 2004 as well as the 2007 Southern California wildfires.


The City of Los Angeles owes a similar obligation to City employees who are called up for active military service for relief and recovery efforts during and after a disaster. Therefore, it is very important that the City morally and financially support all full-time City employees who are activated by the armed services of the United States to provide military services in response to the 2017 Southern California wildfires.

It would be unfair for such City employees to bear financial penalties for the required military services. They should not have to sacrifice any financial compensation or employee benefits for themselves or their family members.

I THEREFORE MOVE, that the City Council request the City Attorney, with assistance of the Personnel Department and the City Administrative Officer, to prepare and present an ordinance to provide that all full-time City employees, who are activated by the armed services of the United States in response to the 2017 Southern California wildfires, receive the difference between their current City salaries and their military salaries and continuation of current City medical, dental and life insurance program benefits for the duration of their military assignment, consistent with previously adopted military leave ordinances.

I FURTHER MOVE, that the City Administrative Officer be requested to report on the fiscal impact of this action concurrent with the presentation of the ordinance.

PRESENTED BY


MITCHELL ENGLANDER
Councilmember, 12th District

SECONDED BY



JAN 30 2018



ORIGINAL