

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Rob Lovelace, Southwest Regional Council of Carpenters  
**Date Submitted:** 06/04/2021 12:11 AM  
**Council File No:** 19-0603  
**Comments for Public Posting:** SUPPORT - Testimony of Rob Lovelace, Southwest Regional Council of Carpenters, submits his testimony before the LA City Council Public Safety Meeting – June 2, 2021, in support of Building A Safer Los Angeles to expand Fire District 1.

Transcribed Testimony of Rob Lovelace,  
Southwest Regional Council of Carpenters  
LA City Council Public Safety Meeting – June 2, 2021

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Thank you and good afternoon, Chairwoman Rodriguez, and Councilmembers O'Farrell, Buscaino, De Leon, and Harris-Dawson:

My name is Rob Lovelace, I represent the Southwest Regional Council of Carpenters. We urge this Committee to accept and to report and to move on to the next step of realizing increased fire safety for more Angelenos. We support Chairperson Rodriguez's and Councilmember Blumenfield's efforts to address the escalating threats of wildfires by ensuring building materials keep pace with the challenges of our changing climate.

The report transmitted to both committees, this committee, and the PLUM Committee unfortunately contributes rather than dispels confusion about construction costs, affordable housing, and fails to make a single recommendation as requested to improve safeguards to ensure responsible construction practices. Your actions to advance this measure for more in depth consideration by the PLUM Committee can help clear away the confusion.

Embracing construction technology to meet the challenges of a changing climate is inevitable. We believe that finding the right balance between enhancing public safety and building a more sustainable environment may be challenging, but it's absolutely achievable. Advancing this item is the necessary next step to finding that balance which is why we urge you to move the item before you today. Thank you.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Ron Miller, Los Angeles & Orange County Building Trades  
**Date Submitted:** 06/04/2021 12:14 AM  
**Council File No:** 19-0603  
**Comments for Public Posting:** SUPPORT - Testimony of Ron Miller, Los Angeles & Orange County Building Trades, before the Los Angeles City Council Public Safety Committee Meeting June 2nd, 2021, in support of Building A SAfer Los Angeles to expand Fire District 1.

Transcribed Testimony of Ron Miller,  
Los Angeles & Orange County Building Trades  
Los Angeles City Council Public Safety Committee Meeting June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021

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Thank you and good afternoon, Chairwoman Rodriguez, and Councilmembers O'Farrell, Buscaino, De Leon, and Harris-Dawson:

On behalf of the 140,000 skilled and trained men and women of L.A. and Orange County, we support this motion because it brings safety to the community. The motion will eliminate the growing issue of high density construction that is at risk of fire and other issues and will increase the life fire safety elements of the City's Building Code.

Despite a misinformation campaign, the motion does NOT ban wood. The motion helps ensure fire life safety is present in all new construction projects in an expanded Fire District 1. So, for those reasons and many more, we support this and look forward to working with the safety project and also protecting the lives of Firemen on duty in the City. Thank you.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Shamim Rashid-Sumar, PE, VP, Fire Codes and Standards, NRMCA

**Date Submitted:** 06/04/2021 12:18 AM

**Council File No:** 19-0603

**Comments for Public Posting:** SUPPORT - Testimony of Shamim Rashid-Sumar, PE, Vice President, Fire Codes and Standards, NRMCA, submits her testimony before the LA City Council Public Safety Meeting – June 2, 2021, in support of Building A Safer Los Angeles to expand Fire District 1.

Transcribed Testimony of Shamim Rashid-Sumar, PE,  
Vice President, Fire Codes and Standards,  
National Ready Mix Concrete Association (NRMCA)  
LA City Council Public Safety Meeting – June 2, 2021

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Chairwoman Rodriguez, and Councilmembers O'Farrell, Buscaino, De Leon, and Harris-Dawson:

Thank you. Speaking in support of the expansion of Fire District 1., while it may be true that the district's ordinances and Building Code adoptions have reduced the prevalence of conflagrations and densely built or populated urbanized areas, continuing development of suburban and rural communities in wildland areas has driven the increase incidence and severity of fires in urban-wildland interface and intermix areas, which often lie outside the current designated boundaries of Fire District 1.

In the Department's report, and their survey of other jurisdictions, they missed to consider the other major cities in the United States that have enacted similar fire district regulations, such as New York City and Chicago. These cities have provided these protections for its citizens and provided affordable housing.

On the question of increased cost of construction, affordable case studies for non-combustible construction are abundant where Fire Districts are used. The Blue Stone Organization has built roughly 10, 000 housing units, owns and manages a 1,000, and has another 2,000 under construction in New York City. A City which is not known for being affordable. Yet, the majority of Blue Stone projects are in residential working class neighborhoods, the majority of their projects are affordable, below median income, and all are built with non-combustible construction.

I urge you to continue your efforts in the expansion of Fire District 1, and I thank you for your consideration.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Larry Williams, Steel Framing Industry Association  
**Date Submitted:** 06/04/2021 12:26 AM  
**Council File No:** 19-0603  
**Comments for Public Posting:** SUPPORT - Testimony of Larry Williams, Steel Framing Industry Association, submits his testimony before the LA City Council Public Safety Meeting – June 2, 2021, in support of Building A Safer Los Angeles to expand Fire District 1.

Testimony of Larry Williams,  
Steel Framing Industry Association  
LA City Council Public Safety Meeting – June 2, 2021

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Thank you and good afternoon, Chairwoman Rodriguez, and Councilmembers O'Farrell, Buscaino, De Leon, and Harris-Dawson:

My name is Larry Williams and I represent the Steel Framing Industry Association. We strongly support the *Building A Safer Los Angeles* motion because it will do exactly that. It will result in a safer Los Angeles for the families of all of my member companies and all Angelenos. Speaking on behalf of the thousands of workers and companies that I represent in Los Angeles, we believe the amended motion brought forth by Councilmembers Rodriguez and Blumenfield is necessary and critical as we enter what may be the most destructive fire season this state has ever seen.

Perhaps, the *Time Magazine* article that came out today, asks the right question, "Wildfires are getting worse; so why is the U.S. still building with wood?"

No one is talking about banning wood. What this motion really does is help ensure that life safety precautions to protect from fire are present in all new high density projects in expanded Fire District 1. And it protects people of color who cannot afford to live in lower density areas. Thank you.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Dennis DiBiase, Architect

**Date Submitted:** 06/04/2021 12:32 AM

**Council File No:** 19-0603

**Comments for Public Posting:** SUPPORT - Testimony of Dennis DiBiase, Architect, Van Tilburg, Banvard & Soderbergh (AIA), submits his testimony before the LA City Council Public Safety Meeting – June 2, 2021, in support of Building A Safer Los Angeles to expand Fire District 1.

Transcribed Testimony of Dennis DiBiase, Architect,  
Van Tilburg, Banvard & Soderbergh (AIA)  
LA City Council Public Safety Meeting – June 2, 2021

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Thank you and good afternoon, Chairwoman Rodriguez, and Councilmembers O'Farrell, Buscaino, De Leon, and Harris-Dawson:

I am an architect that concentrates on the design of apartments, condominiums, mix-use, and elder care housing. I am aware of the desiccation that is happening in Los Angeles and that the Building Code related to Fire District 1 has not kept up with the growth. An example of such an area, currently not included in Fire District 1, is Warner Center.

I support the expansion of Fire District 1 to cover more areas and buildings of particular sizes. This is long overdue. Thank you.