

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT relative to the expansion of Fire District 1, a tool that exists to address increased fire risk in our dense urban communities and is already in place in the City's Building Code.

Recommendation for Council action, as initiated by Motion (Blumenfield - Rodriguez - Harris-Dawson):

DIRECT the Department of Building and Safety, Los Angeles Fire Department, Department of City Planning, with the assistance of the City Attorney, to report back in 30 days on the following:

- a. Feasibility of an ordinance to expand Fire District 1 to areas within the City that are similar to existing conditions, including but not limited to, high density multi-family and commercial land use, and zoning designations that allow for tall buildings, to achieve greater fire life safety.
- b. Current fire life safety codes applicable to structures within the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones and High Wind Velocity Zones, and the feasibility of amending the current code requirements with additional fire life safety measures.
- c. Develop a Fire Protection Plan, as allowed under Chapter 33 of the Los Angeles Fire Code, for all new and significantly altered projects over 150,000 square feet and/or 100,000 square feet if the building is over 30 feet in height, and make recommendations to ensure proper enforcement.
- d. Provide recommendations on how to ensure that top-quality, skilled and responsible construction practices are utilized and guaranteed for new multifamily and commercial structures within the high risk areas encompassed in Fire District 1.
- e. Explain the impacts of expanding Fire District 1 on construction and materials costs and housing affordability.
- f. Provide a study on the loss of life and/or property at buildings with similar characteristics in recent years and whether other cities within Los Angeles County or the State adopted similar requirements.

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 March 3, 2021 the Public Safety Committee virtually considered a Motion (Blumenfield - Rodriguez - Harris-Dawson) relative to expanding Fire District 1 to include all areas within the City covered by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's Very High Severity Zone and City's High Wind Velocity Zone as well as high density population centers. A tool exists to address increased fire risk in our dense urban communities and is already in place in the City's Building Code, Fire District 1. However, Fire District 1 only covers a small percentage of the City,

namely Downtown Los Angeles and Hollywood, to mitigate the risk of fire in its population centers. This overlay is enabling safer construction today. After providing an opportunity for public comment, the Committee provided six new verbal recommendations and moved to approve as amended the recommendations in the Motion, as detailed above. This matter is now transmitted to Council for its consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
RODRIGUEZ:	YES
O'FARRELL:	YES
BUSCAINO:	YES
DE LEON:	YES
HARRIS-DAWSON:	YES

KK 3/3/21

-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-