

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT relative to proposed decisions and recommendations for the 2018 Brush Clearance Assessment Appeals.

Recommendations for Council action:

1. CONFIRM and APPROVE the 2018 Brush Clearance Assessments, as recommended by the Board of Fire Commissioners (Board) at its meeting held on April 7, 2020 and detailed in the April 8, 2020 board of Fire Commissioners (Board) report, attached to the Council file.
2. AMEND the 2018 Brush Clearance Assessments for the following appeals:
 - a. Waive the administrative fee of \$1,304 and confirm the total assessment of \$12,950 for the parcel identified as APN 5217015001, situs address 2611 North Round Drive.
 - b. Waive the administrative fee of \$1,304 and confirm the total assessment of \$1,000 for the parcel identified as APN 5556015018, situs address V/L North of 1737 North Queen Court.
3. DIRECT the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) to forward the April 7, 2020 Board report, upon City Council approval, to the Los Angeles County Tax Collector for placement on the Los Angeles County 2020 Property Tax rolls.

Fiscal Impact Statement: The Board reports that Property owners are assessed an administrative fee of \$1,304.00 and the cost of clearance to abate the hazard for failure to comply with brush clearance requirements. The average cost of clearance is \$4,090.80. For the 2018 brush season, 77 appeal requests were received from property owners electing to appeal their assessments. Of the 77 appeals received, 24 were granted or reduced. The Brush Clearance Assessment Hearings estimated total revenue is \$314,992.00.

Community Impact Statement: None submitted.

Summary:

On May 22, 2020, your Committee considered an April 8, 2020 Board report relative to proposed decisions and recommendations for the 2018 Brush Clearance Assessment Appeals. According to the Board, this year the LAFD received 77 requests from property owners who chose to appeal the imposed assessment. The cases were randomly distributed to the hearing officers in keeping with the recent California Supreme Court's decision regarding administrative hearings and the City Attorney's recommendation in the matter. Invoices setting forth the cost of abatement, administrative fee and/or a noncompliance fee were mailed to property owners. A letter was included with the invoice informing the property owner if they wished to present evidence that shows cause why the property should not be assessed for the cost of abatement or not be assessed in the amount specified in the notice, the Fire Department would schedule them for a hearing. The Brush Clearance Unit held the 2018 Brush Clearance Assessment Appeals at the Marvin Braude Center located in Van Nuys from June 24 through September 19,

2019. During the meeting, appeals were considered and they are detailed above in recommendation No. 2. After consideration and having provided an opportunity for public comment, the Committee recommended approval of the recommendations contained in the April 8, 2020 Board report, as amended, and detailed in the above recommendations. This matter is now submitted to Council for its consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
RODRIGUEZ:	YES
O'FARRELL:	YES
BUSCAINO:	YES
RYU:	YES
LEE:	YES

ARL
5/22/20

-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-