

Communication from Public

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CERT- Defense of LAFD Instructors

Public Comment to City Council

My name is Dr. Patric Cohen, I am a dentist here in Los Angeles. I was CERT trained in 2001, literally during the weeks following the 911 attacks. Needless to say, that was an eye opener as to the necessity of the training CERT would provide me. A few years after my CERT training, I was in a court room in the south bay when a gentleman had a heart attack. Combined with my CERT training, as well as CPR Training, I was able to provide care for him until the paramedics arrived. In 2008 I decided to get my EMT training. Within weeks of finishing my EMT training, I was involved with helping an individual on Pico Boulevard who was having an epileptic seizure, and kept him from hurting himself until Fire Rescue arrived. In 2010, I was following a LAPD car on Ventura Boulevard who was involved in a head on collision with a motorist turning left in front of him. I provided C-spine stabilization, kept the officer calm and turned off his engine until paramedics arrived.

My Point of all of this is my CERT training dramatically helped me to give the proper aid to all of these individuals. I spent 9 years as a CERT battalion coordinator and have seen numerous students go thru the training from the wonderful LAFD Instructors. Many of them have said to me what a difference the training has made in their confidence to take care of themselves, their families and their neighbors in the event of an emergency. This program is designed to help people help themselves, ultimately saving the city large sums of money as well as preservation of life in a catastrophic emergency.

So for the benefit of the people of Los Angeles, I urge you to do everything possible to avoid making cuts to the CERT program which saves lives as well as money for our city.

Thank you for your time.

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