

Communication from Public

Name: eric morgan
Date Submitted: 12/31/2024 11:41 AM
Council File No: 24-1600
Comments for Public Posting: CERT - defense of LAFD Instructors - Public Comment to City Council

_____ My name is Eric Morgan, a newly hired Emergency Management Coordinator Level I for the City of LA Emergency Management Department. My being hired is the culmination of a years-long process of pivoting over from a 30 year plus career in the commercial maritime industry. During the tail-end of this career, I started to become cognizant of the need to give back to my community in which I have raised my children. The path began with figuring out how to translate my skillset into being of service to my neighbors. Taking and completing the CERT Training, with instruction provided by a professional Fire Fighter Paramedic, is instrumental for us neighbors “to be the help until the help gets there” were an adverse incident of significance to occur necessitating the immediate engagement of our first responders. So I am proof-positive of CERT members being a force multiplier! In my present role for the City, my work within the Community Partnerships & Engagement Division (CPED) is primarily forward-facing. A standing objective is to help our Angelenos to be better prepared for an emergency and/or disaster. Pointing residents towards CERT to kickstart their quest through the mechanism of CERT is a cornerstone of this messaging. The firefighter instructors and the reps from area public safety-oriented organizations (such as The Red Cross, Earthquake Country Alliance, as well as the EMD, for example) all find ourselves tabling/interacting at many of the same public events. The esprit de corps between us creates a collaborative environment, resulting in more meaningful engagement with the community, a far larger percentage of whom are far more cognizant of the ‘dynamic’ physical environment we live in. So for the benefit of the constituents we serve, let us at least make sure there are no stones left unturned in terms of seeking out funding sources which could alleviate the need to fracture an established institution such as CERT. For example, new legislative measures such as The recent Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 contains within it The Investing in Community Resilience Act of 2024. The new measure includes enhanced federal funding support for programs such as CERT, playing to its strength in developing human capital in the form of trained community volunteers as a ‘best bang for the buck’ for your investment in disaster preparedness. Thank you for your time. Yours in service, Eric A. Morgan

CERT - defense of LAFD Instructors - Public Comment to City Council

My name is Eric Morgan, a newly hired Emergency Management Coordinator Level I for the City of LA Emergency Management Department. My being hired is the culmination of a years-long process of pivoting over from a 30 year plus career in the commercial maritime industry. During the tail-end of this career, I started to become cognizant of the need to give back to my community in which I have raised my children. The path began with figuring out how to translate my skillset into being of service to my neighbors. Taking and completing the CERT Training, with instruction provided by a professional Fire Fighter Paramedic, is instrumental for us neighbors *“to be the help until the help gets there”* were an adverse incident of significance to occur necessitating the immediate engagement of our first responders.

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Thank you for your time.

Yours in service,

Eric A. Morgan

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(213) 259-4323

Communication from Public

Name: meghan white

Date Submitted: 01/02/2025 02:14 PM

Council File No: 24-1600

Comments for Public Posting: To whom it may concern. I find the idea of removing funding from CERT to absurd. Does the city council not pay attention to what is happening in disasters in California and in other parts of the country? Citizens are so completely reliant on outside help that they don't have the most basic skills to get through a disaster. The number of people that I know who previously didn't know how to shut off any of there utilities, install or replace batteries in a smoke/co2 detector, how to stay safe around downed electrical power lines, how to use a fire extinguisher, basic first aid, stop the bleed, cpr/aed, etc etc. I wonder how many city council members are well versed in these lifesaving skills. I hope there is a look into this. City Council should not be removing funding from projects that they are not qualified to judge if essential or not. Require all members of the City of Los Angeles to go through CERT training and to at least one major exercise before they are allowed to vote to remove funding for this program. All eyes across the country watch to see what happens with LA CERT. We are the standard by which others CERTs are measured.

1/2/25

Subject: Urgent Concern Regarding Proposed CERT Funding Cuts

Greetings City Council,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed reduction in funding for the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program. I find this proposal deeply concerning and believe it demonstrates a lack of understanding regarding the vital role CERT plays in our community's disaster preparedness.

Recent disasters in California and across the nation have underscored the critical need for citizen preparedness. In the aftermath of these events, it has become tragically clear that many individuals lack the basic skills necessary to navigate a disaster situation. I have personally witnessed numerous instances of people being unable to perform essential tasks such as shutting off utilities, maintaining smoke/CO2 detectors, recognizing the dangers of downed power lines, using fire extinguishers, or administering basic first aid, including "Stop the Bleed" techniques and CPR/AED.

I question whether all members of the City Council possess proficiency in these life-saving skills. It is imperative that those making decisions about funding for essential programs like CERT fully understand their importance. I urge the council to thoroughly investigate the program's value before making any decisions that could jeopardize public safety.

The City Council should not be in a position of removing funding from programs whose essential nature they are not qualified to assess. To ensure informed decision-making, I propose that all members of the Los Angeles City Council be required to complete CERT training and participate in at least one major exercise before being permitted to vote on any matters concerning CERT funding.

Los Angeles CERT serves as a national model for other CERT programs. The decisions made here are closely observed by communities across the country. Reducing funding for this vital program would not only endanger our own residents but also set a negative precedent nationwide.

I urge the City Council to reconsider this proposal and prioritize the safety and well-being of our community by maintaining full funding for the CERT program.

Sincerely,

Meghan White

Communication from Public

Name: Martin
Date Submitted: 01/02/2025 02:22 PM
Council File No: 24-1600
Comments for Public Posting: SAVE The CERT Program.pdf

I was a Graduate of the LA County CERT Program in 2016 I took the CERT training thru the LAFD in 2018 and again in 2021

That yea, while on my regular neighborhood walk I stopped to speak with a neighbor down the street. During our conversation in their driveway, I noticed the adjacent neighbor's mailbox overflowing with uncollected mail. I questioned the couple I was speaking with and learned that an elderly woman lived in the house alone and they had not seen or spoken with her for a couple of days.

We immediately proceeded to her front door and rang the bell as well as knocked loudly. **No Answer.**

My brother and I fearing the worst and willing to error on caution forced the door open. Downstairs in the kitchen we found the woman and a small puddle of blood.

She was conscious and said she had fallen the day before, injured herself and was unable to get up. She had tried calling for help. By no one had heard her.

Havening completed the **CERT Curriculum**; I immediately called 911 and requested Advanced Medical Resources. I sent my brother upstairs and outside to direct the paramedics to the patient when they arrived.

I looked under the sink and found a package of dishwashing gloves and put them on. I asked the neighbor to get some towels from the bathroom and a blanket from the bedroom.

I told the Lady who I was, that I had First Aid Training, and that Fire Department was on its way and ask for permission to try and help her.

From my training I knew that this type of fall could result in Head, Neck, and or Back injuries, so I asked her to remain still and with her permission, I gently checked her to find the source of the blood on the floor.

I grabbed a clean dish towel from one of the draws I opened and as I was checking her a found a puncture wound under her arm. I used the towel as a pressure bandage on the wound.

Had I not been trained in First Aid by CERT, I **might have moved her causing further Injuries** while looking for the wound.

CERT stresses: *Personal Safety* as well as *Situational Awareness*. The number of times due to their training that I have managed to prevent accidents and injuries are too numerous to mention here.

I will however share with you that being aware of people around me, I have on several occasions noticed people's conditions which lead me to believe that they might have some type of Medical Issue occurring.

Just yesterday at the Rose parade, A High School Band Member was unsteady on her feet and needed to sit down; my partner and I approached her, identified ourselves and ask if she needed assistance? I explained to her my observations, and although she was slightly embarrassed and shy, we got the attention of a Director with her band, explained the situation to him and he was able to convince her to come to the Medical Tent for an evaluation.

Early in the morning in that same parking lot, the School busses, Medical Supply Box Trucks and other vehicles were being staged. .

No one was taking the responsibility of guiding these large vehicles ads they backup up, pulled forward, and back up to maximize the limited parking space. On three different occasions I had to get people out of the way before they got hit by a vehicle in reverse. Twice, a large truck almost hit a parked vehicle as it jockeyed for a tight parking spot.
**Had I not assumed the responsibility to keep people and property safe?
Accidents and Injuries would have occurred.**

These are lessons taught to everyday citizens when they take a neighborhood CERT Course.

If the **CERT Program** is reduced, or dismantled, **who is going to train people to respond to situations in their own neighborhoods?** When you look at disasters around the world, it's the civilians and neighbors helping neighbors because the Government is overwhelmed.

Don't forget: **It's the Volunteers who support the First Respond in a disaster.** Think about the 2028 Olympics????

You are going to need qualified and vetted civilians to make it happen!!!!

Do you want the Professional Fire Fighters sitting on a Wires Down Call (which CERT is qualified to do), instead of responding to a Fire or Advanced Medical Emergency, or Terrorist Attack?????

Martin

LAFD CERT Call Out Team

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 01/02/2025 04:36 PM

Council File No: 24-1600

Comments for Public Posting: See below

December 31, 2024

Mayor Karen Bass
City Council Members
Chief Crowley
LAFD - Fire Commission

My vote is to keep the CERT program in its entirety, for the very simple reason...it works.

If nothing else the few thousand trained CERT citizens understand the huge, complex problems involved in any major disaster and will be able to stay out of the way of the professionals. This alone, being able to take care of ourselves for the first day or two, and working our way out from our own homes into our neighborhoods is beneficial to the Police, Fire Department, medical professionals and the disaster preparedness team in keeping them focused on the bigger picture.

While every life is important, saving a medical center is paramount. While an EMT can save lives, a functional medical center can save hundreds, and at the same time be the center/conduit of information and resources for an entire community.

On a personal note, my wife and I enjoyed the small class size and hands on training, planning our escape and preparing our home, the opportunity to meet a number of like-minded neighbors and finding out that most of the training is just plain old common sense. In addition, 3-4 years of monthly meetings to keep up our skills, and learn new ones.

Thank you

Andrew Needle
CERT Trained 2014 & 2019

Communication from Public

Name: Kari Garcia

Date Submitted: 01/02/2025 08:49 PM

Council File No: 24-1600

Comments for Public Posting: January 2, 2025 Public Comment Council File 24-1600 City Council Members, I would like the CERT Unit to continue operating with no less than 8 full-time Fire Fighter Instructors under the guidance and direction of the LAFD, where CERT was originally conceived. If Los Angeles cannot sustain a successful CERT Program and provide free disaster preparedness to its citizens, the optics and faith in our City will be diminished, just as Los Angeles steps onto the world stage for the NBA All-Star 2026, FIFA World Cup (2026), Super Bowl LXI (2027) and the 2028 Summer Olympics. Keep CERT in its entirety, and show the world that we are ready for anything. Leaving the residents of Los Angeles without adequate preparation and support with an anticipated major earthquake in the next 28 years is reckless. We need as many CERT instructors as possible. Even the EMD has reduced the number of RYLAN training coordinators from 4 to 1. This along with reducing LAFD Fire Fighter CERT instructors to 2 is reckless. How exactly do you plan to have Los Angeles respond after a major disaster when you leave us with 2 maybe 3 instructors to train 4 million Los Angeles residents? Kari Garcia, RN, CERT Trained/Battalion 18 South Dunsmuir Avenue LA CA 90019 kgarcia@me.com