

Communication from Public

Name: David Rand

Date Submitted: 01/03/2025 04:06 PM

Council File No: 24-1600

Comments for Public Posting: "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"

Communication from Public

Name: John Sharpe
Date Submitted: 01/03/2025 04:15 PM
Council File No: 24-1600
Comments for Public Posting: See Below

Public Comment Regarding CERT

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing as a 39 year resident of Westchester to urge you to continue funding the CERT program throughout the city, as I believe having trained community members capable of helping city services fill the gaps that are surely going to happen when a major disaster happens is of incredible importance. I'm a firm believer in community-based solutions, and CERT is one huge step in making ourselves more self-reliant in times of need.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

John Sharpe

7636 Ogelsby Ave., LA CA 90045

Communication from Public

Name: James Sciullo

Date Submitted: 01/03/2025 06:49 PM

Council File No: 24-1600

Comments for Public Posting: This is a fantastic endorsement of the CERT program! It's great to see community members so engaged and prepared. As a fellow CERT graduate, I completely agree with this message. The program is invaluable for our community.

Support for the Los Angeles Fire Department CERT Unit

As a proud graduate of the CERT program, I am writing to express my wholehearted support for the Los Angeles Fire Department's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program. This invaluable initiative equips community volunteers with essential skills and knowledge to effectively respond to earthquakes and other disasters.

The CERT program empowers volunteers to take care of themselves, their families, and their neighbors during emergencies, allowing the LAFD to focus on areas with the greatest need. Additionally, CERT volunteers often assist the LAFD with their routine duties, further enhancing the department's capabilities.

As a CERT graduate, I have personally assembled preparedness kits for my family (and pets!), and I feel confident in my ability to help my community recover from any significant disaster that may occur.

Thank you for your attention and continued support of this vital program.

Communication from Public

Name: Sarah M.

Date Submitted: 01/03/2025 07:00 PM

Council File No: 24-1600

Comments for Public Posting: I urge that the CERT Unit continues to operate with no fewer than 8 full-time Fire Fighter Instructors, guided and directed by the LAFD, where CERT was originally founded. If Los Angeles is unable to maintain a successful CERT Program and provide free disaster preparedness to its residents, it will undermine the city's image and public trust, especially as Los Angeles prepares to host major global events such as the NBA All-Star 2026, FIFA World Cup (2026), Super Bowl LXI (2027), and the 2028 Summer Olympics. Retain the full CERT Program and demonstrate to the world that we are ready for anything.

Communication from Public

Name: Lina Sok
Date Submitted: 01/07/2025 02:48 PM
Council File No: 24-1600
Comments for Public Posting: See attached.



Loyola Marymount University
Campus Safety
Services
Environmental Health and Safety

January 7, 2025

To the Office of the City Clerk, City Council, and Fire Commission:

Please accept this letter as a concern for the termination of the CERT Unit and/or its program. Over the last two years, the CERT Unit, its members and educators have played a pivotal role in keeping Loyola Marymount University and its great Los Angeles community safe. The hours the CERT Unit has invested in training along with our own emergency preparation have provided us the necessary tools to feel confident in handling emergency events and best practice response.

I urge you to please re-consider the termination of the CERT Unit as it will have a major impact in our community's knowledge and confidence in emergency management. The continued operation of the CERT program is crucial in helping us stay ready, therefore helping save lives in the many unforeseen events.

Sincerely,

Lina Sok
Environmental Health & Safety Specialist
Loyola Marymount University

Communication from Public

Name: Mauricio Alanis
Date Submitted: 01/07/2025 03:35 PM
Council File No: 24-1600

Comments for Public Posting: The beauty of CERT is that not only does it teach us, the civilian population, valuable disaster survival skills, but it also helps fill in the gaps left by our first responders, namely the Los Angeles Fire Department, being called out to higher priority incidents. Unfortunately, it can only do so if there are an adequate number of instructors (and budgetary dollars) to train potential new CERT members. Please see the attached PDF for additional comments and details.

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Mauricio Alanis. I have been a long-time resident of the City of Los Angeles, since age two, in fact. I graduated from LAFD CERT in March of 2020. I will provide complete disclosure and state that I no longer live in LA City and moved to the Inland Empire, but I hope my note will nonetheless provide solid testament to the value of the City of Los Angeles' CERT program.

The beauty of CERT is that not only does it teach us, the civilian population, valuable disaster survival skills, but it also helps fill in the gaps left by our first responders, namely the Los Angeles Fire Department, being called out to higher priority incidents. Unfortunately, it can only do so if there are an adequate number of instructors to train potential new CERT members.

We have all seen the current wildfire situation that will only get worse with global warming. We have seen how high winds can bring down transmission lines, creating a hazardous environment both in commercial and residential neighborhoods. We have seen flooding near and far from flood channels. We encounter earthquakes on a regular basis – this is California, after all.

I was a bit surprised and quite sad last year on the ACS Radio Net when I heard that the city planned to cut funding for the CERT program and eliminate instructors. As it is, the program is short-staffed. When our first CERT instructor, Firefighter Howard, had to have back surgery, I knew the organizers had to find another instructor, and thankfully, Firefighter Jensen filled this role as she took on the courses and led us to graduate from the program. If she had not been available, what would have happened to the current class? It would have been postponed, and indefinitely, given that the COVID pandemic was just getting started.

Unfortunately, many residents set off illegal fireworks in the city limits. I was happy to visit Rose Hill Park in Northeast LA, near my old house, and found Patrick Botz-Forbes, and other team members performing fire watch on the 4th of July, a while ago. During these types of festive and dangerous holidays, who keeps watch on our parks, which could potentially be a source of fuel for a potentially larger fire? CERT can and does.

I have noticed various battalions and fire station first-in FRS radio nets taking place, not only providing a source of communication for residents, teaching them how to use a radio, but also connecting them into more cohesive neighborhoods.

I have seen CERT make Stop-The-Bleed classes, Neighborhood Team Programs, and even CPR/AED classes more accessible to the residents of the city. Oftentimes, these programs, while available, are run by different entities, but CERT helped package this into a whole new service, through the CERT program. My CERT training (and encouragement to take additional courses through FEMA helped my employer and me during the COVID pandemic.

During COVID, CERT started the Zello Radio Net, which I still participate in as an outside-the-city visitor. It provided then and continues to provide not only a source of practice for people to learn effective two-way communication over a variety of media (FRS/GMRS, amateur, software radio, smartphone, etc.), but also a source of information for current happenings in and around the city.

I unfortunately never joined the CERT Call-out team, as I was in the process of leaving the city, but the importance of the Call-Out teams is paramount – not only with downed wires, but with firefighter hydration, fire station security, and other tasks which would normally tie up fire apparatus.

Even now, there are upcoming events for the city (Summer Olympics, FIFA World Cup, Super Bowl LXI) that would greatly benefit from the program, along with the usual regular public events and places one sees CERT (Christmas Parade, etc.) assisting in.

But finally - how tragic would it be for the CERT program, which was created by the City of Los Angeles, eventually died due to attrition and lack of funding? That number of instructors should be increasing, not decreasing. The city's population is not decreasing... CERT should keep pace and continue to offer the invaluable service that it currently provides. Having such a prepared group of citizens ready to alleviate the burden on our sworn-in first responders during a disaster is a source of pride for us, as it should be to the city where this program was conceived.

I implore you to please reconsider your plans to lower the CERT instructor count and CERT budget in the City of Los Angeles.

Respectfully,

Mauricio Alanis
Foundation Laboratory

Communication from Public

Name: ORLANDO BOHR., LAFD-CERT.

Date Submitted: 01/07/2025 08:07 PM

Council File No: 24-1600

Comments for Public Posting: Los Angeles City Council... Honorable Chairman and Representatives... Regarding your file #24-1600 / LAFD - CERT TEAM. I, Orlando Bohr with LAFD-CERT Credential # 1002716., currently serving as a Call Out Team Member. Respectfully request your support for approval of the Budget as it has been presented for your kind consideration. As it stands, their existing resources are very low and I/We pray and hope that they will not go into further depression., given that it will represent a matter of life and death. Not approving the budget as requested, will mean more destruction of valuable assets and human lives. It'll be very sad... Please, "vote" in support to keep the CERT program alive within the LAFD., it is vital for our Chiefs, Captains, especially for our Firefighters and for the families who have been successfully trained to survive on their own to save their love ones when tragedies strike. The CERT Call Out Team members help LAFD to the extent of gathering and selling plastic bottles to raise funds and purchase Energy Bars, Hydration with Electrolytes, among other things., to sustain Firefighters during high heat days. To mitigate their pain and suffering to continue their hard work because they're under staffed and because the City does not provide such vital elements for their well being while on duty... As a Volunteer with LAFD-CERT, I have invested 7 years of my life to support our Firefighters and our Communities, because they deserve much more than that, so., Please approve their budget and keep CERT in place. The program is worth every penny invested already, it is priceless for me, for my fellow Volunteers and for the Communities...