

Communication from Public

Name: Michelle Needle
Date Submitted: 01/08/2025 09:05 AM
Council File No: 24-1600
Comments for Public Posting: See Below

January 8, 2025

Dear Karen Bass
Los Angeles City Council
Fire Department

I strongly urge you to continue funding the CERT program that trains the civilian population in how to handle emergencies, starting from their own homes and families, and then moving outwards to assist their neighbors.

The fires in our areas are a strong reminder that emergency personnel can not be at all places at all times. With the Fire Department training us civilians, through their CERT program (Community Emergency Response Team), they have equipped us with a few strategies to take care of ourselves, our families and our neighbors. We've learned how to turn off gas and water lines, how to stop fires in our kitchens, how to apply pressure or even make a tourniquet for bleeding, and do CPR until the professionals can arrive.

Most of all, the CERT program helps us to maintain a sense of calm, knowing we've been trained to handle these emergencies as they arise. Equipping those of us in the civilian population is a good use of funds. It allows budgets to stretch further when more people can step in to help. For these reasons, I strongly urge you to continue funding the CERT program and the once a month refresher meetings.

Sincerely,
Michelle Needle
CERT Trained in 2014 and 2019

Communication from Public

Name: Katharine Carpenter

Date Submitted: 01/08/2025 03:55 PM

Council File No: 24-1600

Comments for Public Posting: To Whom it may concern, As a CERT member, I am writing to emphasize the importance of the CERT program to the City of Los Angeles. The current wildfires in the Palisades, Altadena, Sylmar and elsewhere in LA demonstrate that there is an enormous need for community disaster readiness. CERT members assist their communities in disaster preparedness, support their communities and the fire department during disasters, participate in events to promote readiness, perform hands only CPR, among the many things CERT members are trained to do. CERT members are an important adjunct to the local fire departments in our community, and I believe that the program should be expanded and not reduced in size or deleted. Deletion or reduction of the program would result in the loss of an important community resource that can be leveraged to support our first responders in preparing for and responding to the multitude of disasters that impact our city. Please retain the CERT program. Sincerely,
Katharine (Posie) Carpenter