

Communication from Public

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Comments for Public Posting: Please see attached file.

January 12th, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

As a CERT graduate, I have learned the skills to help my neighbors, educate others about safety matters in their residences or workplaces, and raise awareness about emergency preparedness. Through outreach events sponsored by LAFD and LAFD CERT we set up information booths and ACTIVELY engage with the community to help raise this awareness. We often provide a quick safety demonstration for people to apply immediately in their lives when needed and invite them to join in the numerous CERT classes taught by LAFD personnel across the city. People are extremely interested and engaged in this information.

It would be a true loss to diminish any of this training capacity for the city when I feel the program is growing and raising awareness for so many residents who are eager to learn about emergency preparedness. I am always surprised at how much people **want** to know this information and I take **pride** in informing them we are fortunate to have our city provide this training for free at so many convenient locations at once.

A few months ago, I was the second person onscene at a traffic accident. CERT gave me the confidence & skills to safely approach an injured driver alongside another citizen. We led the injured driver to safety, I assessed his physical and mental status, spoke with him to keep calm, and stabilized his broken arm until LAFD paramedics arrived within a few minutes. This is just a small example of how LAFD CERT Training empowers citizens.

If there were a reduction in the ability to provide these LAFD CERT services, I fear we would be moving backwards at a time when we are truly getting the message & training out to our city. There is **no downside** to having such an empowered and educated population in such a complex city. **We teach people to help each other and be a resource to their immediate communities – what's better than that?**

Beyond CERT basic training & community outreach, I have had the opportunity to begin training with and working with the LAFD CERT Call-Out team – comprised of so many inspiring, skilled, long-term volunteers who support the LAFD directly. I am just learning the ropes to make sure I personally am providing the **best** volunteer resource to our LAFD firefighters when working on-scene and am disheartened to even hear the suggestion of reducing any aspect of the LAFD CERT program.

With the fire emergency occurring right now, we need as much support, training, and education as possible - not just for the core team of LAFD CERT Call-Out but for our city's citizens who participate in basic CERT training as well.

We must continue fully supporting LAFD CERT program without reductions - to meet the needs & desires of our city residents who are eager to receive this training and continue reaching as many people as possible to continue our path to becoming a more resilient city.

Respectfully submitted,

William E. Gossett

LAFD CERT Call-Out Team
Valley Bureau, Battalion 12
Sworn-in Oct. '23