

## Communication from Public

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**Comments for Public Posting:** See bellow

January 22, 2025

Dear Honorable Members of the Fire Commission,

I currently participate in the CERT program and find it extremely valuable.

The LAFD's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program educates civilians citywide to enhance disaster preparedness and emergency response capabilities. CERT volunteers, equipped with specialized training, provide vital support to the department during major incidents, allowing LAFD personnel to focus on critical tasks.

Key contributions of CERT include:

- **Incident Support:** Volunteers assist in managing hydration and rehabilitation for firefighters, handling downed power lines, and providing logistical support at major city events.
- **Cost Savings:** CERT saves the city significant funds by performing these tasks without cost. Reducing V-hours would require additional paid personnel, negating these savings.
- **Community Education:** CERT Firefighter Instructors train residents in self-reliance and team operations, making CERT a "force multiplier" for Los Angeles.

Since August 1, 2023, CERT volunteers have responded to 259 dispatches, contributing 945 hours of service. Reducing the CERT Unit's V-hours would not only increase costs but also weaken the department's ability to rely on this essential support.

I am writing this letter to urge the Board to reconsider any proposed reduction in the CERT Unit V-hours and continue supporting this essential volunteer program.

Thank you in advance for your time and attention to this matter.

Anat Ambar