

Communication from Public

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Council File No: 24-1600

Comments for Public Posting: December 27, 2024 Los Angeles Board of Fire Commissioners
200 N. Main Street, Suite 1800 Los Angeles, CA 90012 Re: BFC
24-117 - LAFD CERT V-Hours Staffing Reductions Dear
Honorable Members of the Fire Commission: As a CERT
graduate and sworn member of the CERT Call-Out Team, I am
writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed reduction
of CERT Unit sworn staff overtime variable staffing hours
(V-hours) outlined in BFC 24-117. As an active CERT volunteer
who has personally responded to emergencies, I can attest
firsthand to the critical importance of maintaining current staffing
levels for this vital program. The CERT program's effectiveness
relies heavily on the expertise and availability of our sworn CERT
Firefighter Instructors. These dedicated professionals ensure that
volunteers like myself are properly trained and can safely assist
LAFD during emergencies. Through their guidance, I have
developed crucial skills in emergency response, particularly
regarding seismic events and wildfires that pose significant risks
to our city. As a Call-Out Team member, I have witnessed how
CERT volunteers provide essential support services that allow
LAFD personnel to focus on critical emergency response tasks.
Our activities include: - Managing downed power lines during
storms - Providing hydration and rehabilitation support for
firefighters during extended incidents - Conducting fire patrol
during red flag conditions - Supporting family reunification
efforts during major incidents The current CERT program
represents a cost-effective investment in public safety. When you
consider that CERT volunteers have provided 945 hours of service
across 259 dispatches since August 2023 alone, the value of this
program becomes clear. This volunteer service represents
significant cost savings for the city while enhancing LAFD's
operational capabilities. Reducing V-hours would severely impact
the CERT Unit's ability to train and coordinate volunteers
effectively. This would not only diminish the program's
effectiveness but could ultimately lead to increased costs as LAFD
would need to allocate paid personnel to handle tasks currently
managed by CERT volunteers. I strongly urge the Board to
maintain the CERT Unit's current V-hour staffing levels. The
program's value to LAFD and the citizens of Los Angeles far
exceeds its operational costs, and any reduction in staffing would

significantly impact our city's emergency preparedness capabilities. I appreciate your consideration of this critical public safety matter. Sincerely, Hochan Son CERT Graduate and Call-Out Team Member, Valley Bureau Battalion 10