

Communication from Public

Name: Linda Pollari

Date Submitted: 12/28/2024 03:21 PM

Council File No: 24-1600

Comments for Public Posting: I am a member of the LAFD CERT Call-out Team writing in support of the CERT program. CERT unpaid volunteers provide incredibly valuable support to the LAFD that allows paid firefighters to focus on emergency response instead of, for example, waiting for hours on a lines down incident. Please consider the savings in funds and resources that CERT volunteers provide in regard to proposal BFC 24-117. Thank you!

Communication from Public

Name: Tara Anne

Date Submitted: 12/28/2024 06:07 PM

Council File No: 24-1600

Comments for Public Posting: To Whom It May Concern, As a CERT graduate, I am writing to express my strong support for the continued success of the Los Angeles Fire Department's Community Emergency Response Team ("CERT") program. The Board of Fire Commission number which concerns this action is BFC 24-117 and my note is regarding continued CERT operations. This invaluable initiative trains community volunteers in best practices for responding to emergencies, including earthquakes and other disasters. CERT volunteers are prepared to help themselves, their neighbors, and their communities when disaster strikes, which in turn allows the LAFD to focus its resources on the areas of highest need. In addition to assisting during disasters, CERT volunteers also support the LAFD's routine operations, providing critical backup when needed. Taking the CERT classes was an excellent opportunity for me to refresh and expand my knowledge. As an EMT since 1999, the training gave me a deeper understanding of how to apply my medical skills in a disaster scenario, while also highlighting the importance of local considerations—such as coordinating with neighbors and leveraging existing community resources. The CERT program boosted my confidence by teaching me how to assess situations quickly, manage basic triage, and help organize community efforts during an emergency. It also reinforced the importance of being prepared not just as an individual, but as part of a larger, coordinated team working toward a safer, more resilient community. I strongly urge that the CERT Unit continue to operate with no less than eight full-time Firefighter Instructors under the guidance and direction of the LAFD, where CERT was originally conceived. If Los Angeles cannot sustain this vital program and offer free disaster preparedness training to its residents, it will undermine the faith and trust the community has in our City's ability to respond to emergencies. We need to protect our communities, and a well-supported CERT program is an essential part of that effort. I urge you to ensure that this program receives the resources it needs to continue to serve our neighborhoods effectively. Sincerely, Tara Anne Mid City/West Adams CERT Graduate

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 12/28/2024 08:15 PM

Council File No: 24-1600

Comments for Public Posting: Please ensure there is funding to maintain the CERT Program through the Los Angeles City Fire Department. It is money well spent as insurance against a severe city-wide emergency. I have been through the program twice and, while I am not actively engaged in on-going CERT activities, I am ready and willing to step up as an assistant on any CERT team that emerges should there be a disaster in my area.

Communication from Public

Name: Benjamin Kahn

Date Submitted: 12/28/2024 09:22 PM

Council File No: 24-1600

Comments for Public Posting: Regarding: Support for the Los Angeles Fire Department CERT Unit (BFC 24-117) To Whom It May Concern, As a CERT graduate, I strongly support the continued and successful LAFD Community Emergency Response Team ("CERT") program. The CERT program trains community volunteers in best practices and how to respond in the event of earthquakes and other disasters. CERT-trained volunteers are prepared to help themselves, their neighbors, and their communities when an emergency happens, thus allowing the LAFD to concentrate their efforts in the highest-need areas. As a CERT graduate, I have gone on to serve the greater Los Angeles area as an emergency manager assisting people with disabilities in maintaining their independence before, during, and after disasters, emergencies, and crises. People with disabilities, especially those who have mobility disabilities may need the assistance of CERT volunteers to evacuate after a disaster - and by limiting the number of CERT instructors available to teach the community, you are in turn limiting the independence and self-determination of these very same individuals (and may ultimately lead to their injury or worse). The City has an obligation to ensure that people with disabilities are not abandoned in their planning, training, and response - and therefore must not reduce the number of CERT instructors nor the CERT budget. In the landmark CALIF et al. decision against the City of Los Angeles in 2011, the court ruled that the City violated the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) by not taking sufficient steps to address the needs of people with disabilities in their emergency plans - and the City agreed to take steps to make it right. Failure to maintain the CERT program as it is (with the number of instructors and budget) may constitute a failure to consider the needs of people with disabilities before, during, and after a disaster - as CERT remains a critical asset utilized to support these efforts. Please do not make it more difficult for people with disabilities to survive, evacuate, and maintain their independence during a disaster by reducing the number of CERT instructors and CERT-trained community members - there are enough challenges as it is! Thank you so much for your consideration, Benjamin Kahn Disability Disaster Access & Resource Coordinator Disability Community Resource Center

Communication from Public

Name: Marilyn Peters

Date Submitted: 12/28/2024 09:38 PM

Council File No: 24-1600

Comments for Public Posting: BFC 24-111 Support for the Los Angeles Fire Department CERT Unit To Whom It May Concern: As a CERT graduate, I strongly support the successful LAFD Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program. The CERT program trains community volunteers in best practices and how to respond in the event of earthquakes and other disasters. CERT trained volunteers are prepared to help themselves, their neighbors and their communities when an emergency happens, thus allowing the LAFD to concentrate their efforts in highest-need areas. CERT volunteers also frequently support the LAFD's responses to their routine duties. As a CERT graduate, and active member in CERT activities (monthly skills training and refresher activities), I have mapped my neighborhood, educated the members of my block, and kept them informed as new/updated information is made known to me. How else would a city/county this size be able to educate its citizens to be Disaster Aware/Prepared for the Big One? Remember it's not "If but When"! The current CERT Unit that consists of 8 seasoned Firefighter Instructors, supports our city of over 4 million residents by teaching over 6,000 people a year in emergency preparedness and disaster response. They absorb over 500 pages of materials to teach the 17.5-hour CERT course in a meaningful way to communities throughout Los Angeles. They prepare and empower citizens to be safer when responding after a disaster. I urge you to take into consideration the benefits that this LAFD Unit has provided and the vacuum that would be noticeable if this program were eliminated. Thank you, Marilyn Peters Concerned Resident Council District 10