

Communication from Public

Name: Patrick Hall
Date Submitted: 12/29/2024 09:30 PM
Council File No: 24-1600
Comments for Public Posting: Dear Honorable Members of the Fire Commission; Please see attached

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;

Two (2) minutes; that's all I had. Because I took a CERT class, I was able to extinguish a fire in my home in 2018. **The CERT Instructors were correct**; I had those two minutes to get a Fire Extinguisher and a Mask and put out the fire OR get out!

Several friends were living in the *Northridge Meadows* apartments that collapsed during the 1994 Northridge Earthquake ... and they survived. One friend found out about CERT and asked me to join her in the class. I have been a CERT member since 1995 and continue to learn how to help others prepare for a disaster.

I took additional CERT training for the Callout Team and I often have:

- Volunteered to watch the *Alert California* wildfire (and structure) cameras
 - Reported Smoke or Active Fire directly to LAFD Metro
 - Provided *Hydration* to Fire personnel who have been dispatched to an active fire
 - Given relief for *Wires Down* - upwards of 7 or 10 Fire personnel are freed up to go 'Available' for EMS or Fire incidents
- I get the *biggest* smiles from the Fire Fighters

The CERT Battalion Coordinators hold monthly meetings for the CERT members to practice and learn new skills and reach out to 2000 to 5000 community members each month and up to 70000 Los Angeles residents several times a year just in Battalion 15 alone (Porter Ranch, Northridge, Granada Hills, Chatsworth). All citizens, including non-CERT members can join the Community meetings in order to learn more and sign up for an upcoming CERT class.

Each CERT member becomes a **FORCE-MULTIPLIER** when providing our service to the citizens of Los Angeles. One or two citizens may plan to attend a CERT class and they INVITE THEIR NEIGHBORS. As I often ask ... 'If your neighbor had a fire, would you care?' The answer is yes; I agree that we are all basically **good people**. In the case of a fire, it can spread quickly and (if not controlled) can spread to **your home** as well. In a short time, you will have built a neighborhood of CERT-trained neighbors.

Please do not diminish the work that has been done by CERT and leave 'in-tact' the CERT teaching cadre as it stands today. CERT started in Los Angeles City; while the boundaries likely will not change in the near future, the population certainly will increase. CERT is offered in English and Spanish and has been translated into 20+ languages. A CERT program exists in all 50 states and 15 or more countries ... led by the LAFD CERT program.

Respectfully,

Patrick Hall

Communication from Public

Name: Marci Sandell
Date Submitted: 12/29/2024 09:34 AM
Council File No: 24-1600
Comments for Public Posting: CERT program is essential for all of us following a major disaster. Who will help your family if a disaster strikes and you aren't home? Your trained neighbors are the answer! CERT has trained many citizens to spring into action in the event of an emergency and need to train more so we all can be safer!

Communication from Public

Name: Dianne Velta Lawrence

Date Submitted: 12/29/2024 12:26 PM

Council File No: 24-1600

Comments for Public Posting: I am a CERT Graduate, and I wish to declare my support of the LAFD CERT Unit. The CERT curriculum and program was conceived in Los Angeles by members of the Los Angeles Fire Department after they witnessed hundreds of civilians get injured after trying to help trapped victims immediately after significant earthquakes in Japan and Mexico City. It is human nature to want to help after a disaster – but to do it safely takes a path of education. I understand that the current CERT Unit, consisting of 8 seasoned Fire Fighter Instructors, currently supports our City of over 4 million residents by teaching approximately 2,400 students a year in emergency preparedness and disaster response and another 2,700 in hands-only CPR. These 8 Fire Fighter Instructors absorb over 500 pages of materials to teach the 17.5-hour CERT course in a meaningful way to communities throughout Los Angeles. The 7 Units prepare and empower citizens to be safer when responding after a disaster. The CERT Graduates:

- Most CERT graduates return to their communities equipped to help their neighbors and families become better prepared for disasters and emergency situations.
- Some active graduates continue their education by attending monthly skills training and refreshers.
- Others become leaders in their communities by becoming CERT Battalion and Bureau Coordinators. These Coordinators, who are located throughout the City, support their area by hosting regular skills training as well as providing preparedness outreach at events and fairs.
- The most committed CERT graduates are nominated and invited to join the CERT Call-Out team. This elite group of CERTs are sworn-in and become integrated into LAFD events. Their work can relieve an engine company from downed-power lines, provide hydration and rehab for exhausted Fire Fighters, provide Family Reunification (Re-Pop) support and help with Fire Patrol on red flag days. ** This year, the Call-Out Team reported to 206 incidents and provided 785 hours of free volunteer support services. I would like the CERT Unit to continue operating with no less than 8 full-time Fire Fighter Instructors under the guidance and direction of the LAFD, where CERT was originally conceived. If Los Angeles cannot sustain a successful CERT Program and provide free disaster preparedness to its citizens, the optics and faith in our City will be diminished.