

Communication from Public

Name: Westside Regional Alliance of Councils
Date Submitted: 09/29/2025 06:00 PM
Council File No: 25-0848
Comments for Public Posting: Please see the attached letter from the Westside Regional Alliance of Councils (WRAC), supporting the above referenced Council File. Thank you. Christina Spitz, WRAC Vice-Chair



Westside
Regional
Alliance of
Councils

westsidecouncils.com

Bel Air-Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council
Brentwood Community Council
Del Rey Neighborhood Council
Mar Vista Community Council
Neighborhood Council of Westchester-Playa
North Westwood Neighborhood Council
Pacific Palisades Community Council

Palms Neighborhood Council
South Robertson Neighborhoods Council
Venice Neighborhood Council
West LA-Sawtelle Neighborhood Council
Westside Neighborhood Council
Westwood Community Council
Westwood Neighborhood Council

September 29, 2025

Hon. Karen Bass, Mayor, City of Los Angeles

Hon. Marqueece Harris-Dawson, President, Los Angeles City Council

Hon. John S. Lee, Chair, City Council Public Safety Committee (PFC)

Hon. Traci Park, Councilwoman, CD 11

Hon. Katy Yaroslavsky, Councilwoman, CD 5

Hon. Heather Hutt, Councilwoman, CD 10

Hon. Nithya Raman, Councilwoman, CD 4

Ronnie Villanueva, Interim Fire Chief, Los Angeles Fire Dept. (LAFD)

Jim McDonnell, Chief of Police, Los Angeles Police Dept. (LAPD)

Carol P. Parks, General Manager, Los Angeles Emergency Management Dept. (EMD)

Laura Rubio-Cornejo, General Manager, Los Angeles Dept. of Transportation (LADOT)

Via email to all addressees and submission to LA City Clerk public comment portal

Re: CF 25-0848 (Park / Yaroslavsky): SUPPORT; Request Expedited Completion of Reports

Dear City Officials:

As most of you know, the Westside Regional Alliance of Councils (WRAC) is a cooperative coalition, founded in 2009, of all 14 neighborhood and community councils on the Westside of Los Angeles, representing Council Districts 11 and 5 and portions of Districts 10 and 4. Collectively, WRAC represents over 500,000 Angelenos.

The Westside is home to environmentally vulnerable communities represented by our Member Councils, including areas within designated flood zones (Playa del Rey, Venice and Pacific Palisades) and within the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone/VHFHSZ (Pacific Palisades, Brentwood and Bel Air-Beverly Crest). Pacific Palisades was of course the epicenter of the worst disaster in the history of Los Angeles, when tens of thousands of lives were put at risk during dangerous mandatory evacuations. The community is still reeling from the impacts and justifiably seeks answers as to how this tragedy occurred and how another disaster can be prevented in the future.¹

Evacuation planning is a concern not only for the above communities, but for all communities on the Westside, who are very concerned with reports of the City's noncompliance with AB 747. As a result, ten (10) of WRAC's Member Councils -- more than a supermajority -- have passed the following motion or modified versions in keeping with its spirit:

¹ On January 7, 2025, Palisades residents experienced first-hand dangerous and life-threatening evacuation scenarios -- widely reported on numerous news platforms -- which in turn were the result of an apparent complete failure of evacuation planning by the City. Our other WRAC communities in the VHFHSZ (Brentwood and Bel Air-Beverly Crest) have also experienced unsafe and frightening evacuations during recent past wildfire events.

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“The Westside Regional Alliance of Councils (WRAC) strongly supports Council File 25-0848 (Park / Yaroslavsky), calling for 1) a report back on the status of the City’s compliance with AB 747, 2) a list and evaluation of evacuation routes within CD 11, and 3) plans to improve evacuation route infrastructure, signage, traffic control and public education.

“WRAC further calls the City Council’s attention to the urgent need for infrastructure funding to absorb the cost of implementing a mitigation plan, including by developing new egress and egress routes, and calls on the City to proactively and constructively engage with FEMA and OES, by (among other things) expediting completion of the After-Action Reports by the Office of Emergency Management and LAFD, so that those engaged in evacuation planning and disaster response will have the benefit of these findings.”

The above motion has been passed by the following ten (10) WRAC Member Councils: Bel Air-Beverly Crest NC; Brentwood CC; Del Rey NC; Mar Vista CC; NC Westchester/Playa,* Pacific Palisades CC,* Palms NC, South Robertson NC, West LA-Sawtelle NC, Westwood NC (*modified versions). No Member Council has advised that it is opposed to this motion.

We recognize that the U.S. Attorney has reportedly requested that after-action reports be delayed until the federal ATF report on the origin/cause of the Palisades Fire is completed. We also understand and commend the fact that Councilwoman Park has called for an “outside investigation, . . . [to] serve as a peer review to ensure that every question is answered,” and that retention of an independent firm to conduct the investigation is in process.

Despite the requested pause on After-Action Reports, we stress the urgent need for 1) infrastructure funding for a mitigation plan as noted in our motion above, and 2) completion of fire origin reports, after-action reports and/or investigations as to Los Angeles evacuation planning and disaster response as swiftly as possible, so that the critical goals of understanding what led to and occurred during the disastrous Palisades Fire, and ensuring future evacuation readiness and public safety in our disaster-prone areas and in all of our Westside communities, can be achieved without further delay.

WRAC commends the Council PFC for approving the motion in CF 25-0848 and making important recommendations for action by the full Council. **We respectfully now urge the City Council to take up and approve the motion in CF 25-0848, and for After Action Reports to be completed, without delay.**

Thank you for your consideration and anticipated cooperation with these crucial requests.

Sincerely,
Robin Greenberg and Christina Spitz
Robin Greenberg, Chair and Christina Spitz, Vice-Chair
Westside Regional Alliance of Councils

cc (via email):
Deputy Chief Phillip Fligel, West Bureau Commander, LAFD; Deputy Chief Gerald A. Woodyard, Operations-West Bureau Commanding Officer, LAPD