



KAREN BASS
MAYOR

August 8, 2025

Honorable Members of the City Council
c/o City Clerk
Room 395, City Hall

Re: Extension of Appointment of Interim Fire Chief, Los Angeles Fire Department:
Mr. Ronnie R. Villanueva

Honorable Members:

Pursuant to City Charter §508(c), I am re-appointing Mr. Villanueva as the Interim Fire Chief of the Los Angeles Fire Department, subject to your confirmation, beginning August 22, 2025.

I certify that in my opinion Mr. Villanueva is especially qualified by reason of training and experience for the work which shall devolve upon him, and that I make the appointment solely in the interest of the City. Attached please find a copy of Mr. Villanueva's resume, which provides greater detail about his experience.

Sincerely,

KAREN BASS
Mayor

KB:ta

Attachment

cc: The Honorable John Lee, Chair, Public Safety Committee
Matt Szabo, City Administrative Officer Petty Santos, Interim City Clerk
Sharon Tso, Chief Legislative Analyst Malaika Billups, Personnel Department
Heather Holt, Ethics Commission Nicole Enriquez, Ethics Commission
General Managers' Association

RONNIE R. VILLANUEVA

EXECUTIVE PROFILE

Visionary fire service executive with extensive leadership experience in public safety, crisis management, and organizational transformation. Demonstrated expertise in leading large-scale emergency operations, managing complex budgets exceeding \$1 billion, and driving operational excellence within big systems and across multi-jurisdictional environments. Proven ability to build strategic partnerships, implement innovative safety protocols, and inspire high-performance teams while maintaining an unwavering commitment to protecting and serving the community. A lifelong Angeleno, fluid in Spanish, with a deep understanding of Los Angeles politics, cultures, institutions, and diverse communities, as well as the ability to engage effectively and build trust across them.

Core Competencies:

- Executive Leadership and Strategic Planning
- Crisis and Emergency Management
- Interagency Collaboration and Stakeholder Relations
- Organizational Development and Change Management
- Public Safety Communication and Community Engagement
- Bilingual Communication and Multicultural Fluency

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

INTERIM FIRE CHIEF, LAFD

February 2025 – Present

Strategic Leadership and Operations

- Spearhead comprehensive management of 3,900+ sworn and civilian personnel, driving organizational excellence and service delivery standards across one of the nation's largest fire departments
- Orchestrate strategic administration of \$1 billion annual budget, implementing fiscal strategies that optimize resource allocation while advancing departmental objectives and community safety initiatives
- Champion development and execution of innovative fire prevention, emergency response, and community recovery strategies, significantly enhancing public safety resilience and operational effectiveness

Stakeholder Relations and Community Impact

- Cultivate and maintain strategic relationships with municipal leadership, community stakeholders, and regional partners to foster transparency, collaboration, and public trust in fire service operations
- Direct implementation of cutting-edge training programs and emergency response protocols, ensuring organizational preparedness for complex incidents ranging from routine emergencies to large-scale disasters

MAYOR'S AIDE, EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT**January 2025 – February 2025**

- Assisted with the organization of the Emergency Operations Center and local agencies, providing recommendations for improvement
- Assisted with the collaboration of recovery efforts for the Palisades Wildfire with the Emergency Management Department, California Governor's Office of Emergency Services, Federal Emergency Management Agency, LA County Office of Emergency Management, United States Army Corps of Engineers, and the Mayor's Office

CHIEF DEPUTY OF EMERGENCY OPERATIONS, LAFD**February 2022 – July 2024****Operational Excellence and Leadership**

- Orchestrated comprehensive emergency response operations across 106 stations and 14 battalions, directing daily activities of 1,100+ personnel with a focus on operational efficiency and service excellence
- Provided executive leadership, supervision, and performance evaluation for subordinate chiefs and officers, fostering professional development, and maintaining high operational standards
- Spearheaded the development and implementation of critical policies and procedures for emergency operations, incorporating long-range strategic planning and resource optimization

Strategic Planning and Resource Management

- Collaborated on annual operating budget preparation and management, overseeing strategic equipment procurement, maintenance protocols, and deployment strategies to ensure optimal operational readiness
- Led long-range planning initiatives and resource allocation strategies, aligning departmental capabilities with evolving community needs and emergency response requirements

DEPUTY CHIEF OF OPERATIONS SOUTH BUREAU, LAFD**February 2018 – February 2022****Personnel Leadership and Development**

- Provided comprehensive leadership for 800+ operational and support personnel, focusing on professional development, safety protocols, and organizational welfare initiatives
- Established and maintained strategic partnerships with elected officials, community leaders, neighborhood councils, and assisting agencies to enhance service delivery and community relations
- Served as primary Operations South Bureau representative in high-level departmental meetings, City Council proceedings, and committee deliberations
- Demonstrated tactical leadership as Incident Commander during emergency responses, ensuring effective resource deployment and personnel safety

ASSISTANT CHIEF POSITIONS, LAFD**June 2011 – February 2018****Assistant Bureau Commander of Operations South Bureau, LAFD (January 2015 – February 2018)****Operational Leadership and Community Relations**

- Directed comprehensive safety, training, and professional development programs for 250+ operational and support personnel, optimizing team performance and operational readiness
- Fostered collaborative relationships with government officials, community leaders, and partner agencies to strengthen public safety initiatives and community engagement
- Represented Bureau Commander in critical departmental meetings, municipal proceedings, and public forums, maintaining organizational visibility and stakeholder relations

- Provided tactical command during emergency incidents, ensuring efficient resource utilization and optimal safety outcomes

South Division Assistant Chief (October 14 – January 2015)

- Transformed training and welfare programs for 250 personnel, achieving enhanced operational readiness and team performance
- Strengthened community partnerships and maintained executive representation in departmental and public forums
- Delivered exceptional incident command leadership during emergency responses, ensuring optimal resource deployment and safety protocols

Chief of Staff (July 2013 – October 2014)

- Served as principal advisor to the Fire Chief, providing strategic counsel and administrative expertise for executive decision-making
- Facilitated high-level strategic planning and operational assessments, ensuring alignment of departmental objectives with community priorities

Harbor Homeland Security Assistant Chief (July 2011 – June 2013)

- Managed comprehensive training and operational readiness programs for 500+ personnel, specializing in threat response and interagency coordination
- Implemented advanced port security and counter-terrorism measures, ensuring protection of critical infrastructure and maritime operations
- Developed strategic partnerships with federal, state, and local agencies to enhance homeland security preparedness and response capabilities

BATTALION CHIEF, LAFD

September 2006 – June 2011

- Served as Executive Officer of Emergency Operations, providing tactical leadership and operational oversight for critical incidents
- Commanded multiple Battalion offices across diverse city areas, maintaining high operational standards and community service excellence
- Led Community Liaison Office as primary departmental spokesperson, enhancing public outreach through bilingual communication and strategic media relations
- Fostered collaborative relationships with law enforcement and public safety agencies, strengthening interagency coordination and emergency response capabilities

FIRE CAPTAIN I and II, LAFD

February 1994 – September 2006

- Advanced organizational capability by developing recruits as a Training Academy Instructor, ensuring skilled and prepared workforce development
- Commanded Task Force station operations, leading operational excellence initiatives and administrative functions within Planning and Training Sections
- Served at some of the Department's busiest and most demanding stations, gaining extensive experience in high-volume emergency response and complex incident management
- Contributed to strategic planning and training development, enhancing departmental readiness and professional standards

SPECIAL PROJECTS, STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS, AND ADVISORY ROLES

Strategic Partnerships and Advisory Roles

- Active member of Area Maritime Security Advisory Committee, providing expert guidance on grants, emergency activities, and multi-jurisdictional training exercises
- Emergency Management Department liaison for comprehensive emergency operations planning and coordination
- Chair of promotional examination boards for Fire Captain, Battalion Chief, and Assistant Chief positions, ensuring excellence in leadership selection

Community Engagement and Public Safety

- Representative for the Fire Department in community safety initiatives and interagency collaborative efforts
- Contributor to national Fire Chief committees focused on developing National Safety Standards for fire service operations
- Strategic liaison with MySafe: LA, Red Cross, LAUSD, Fire Foundation, First-In Foundation, Spark of Love Toy Drive, and community organizations promoting public safety awareness

Professional Development and Standards

- Thought leader in fire service policy development and implementation at the national level
- Advocate for innovative training methodologies and emergency response protocols
- Champion of community-centered public safety initiatives and stakeholder engagement strategies

EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Executive Master of Leadership - University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA
- Bachelor of Science in Occupational Studies: Vocational Arts - Cal State University, Long Beach, CA
- Associate of Arts in Liberal Arts - Los Angeles Harbor College, Los Angeles, CA
- Enhanced Incident Management and Unified Command Course Phase I & II - National Rescue & Response Training Center, College Station, TX
- Shipboard Firefighting Course – Texas A&M Engineering Extension Services, College Station, TX
- Southern California Sea-Based Defense Support of Civil Authorities Training – United States Navy, San Diego, CA
- Leadership in Crises Course - Harvard Kennedy School. Cambridge, MA
- Enhanced Incident Management and Unified Command Course, National Rescue & Response Training – Texas A&M Engineering Extension Services, College Station, TX
- Leadership Academy, Los Angeles City Fire Department – Los Angeles City Fire Department In-Service Training, Los Angeles, CA