

MOTION

On December 26, 2025, the City Clerk approved for circulation a ballot measure petition titled the Los Angeles Fire and Emergency Preparedness and Response Ordinance. The measure is scheduled to appear on the ballot in the November 3, 2026, General Election. Should it pass, the proposed measure would impose an additional one-half percent (0.5%) sales tax in the City of Los Angeles, with all proceeds dedicated to supporting the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD). Funded activities would include hiring firefighters, paramedics, and other staff; purchasing and maintaining vehicles and equipment; building and upgrading fire stations and other facilities; and brush clearance.

The ordinance specifies that this funding is intended to supplement — not replace — the City's existing LAFD budget, and that all additional revenue will be held in a separate account for that exclusive purpose. Should the City fail to maintain LAFD funding at historic budgetary levels, the tax would not be imposed. The ordinance further requires annual audits and the establishment of a citizens' oversight committee to monitor and report on how tax revenues are spent. Fire station construction and replacement projects funded by this tax would be subject to project-labor agreements and prevailing wage requirements.

The United Firefighters of Los Angeles City projects that the measure will generate \$324 million in its first year. To ensure these resources are deployed without delay, the City should begin coordinating now with departments and employee labor organizations on sworn and civilian staffing needs, hiring policies, and onboarding procedures.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council instruct the City Administrative Officer (CAO) and the Personnel Department, with assistance from the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) and its respective employee labor organizations, to report to the Budget and Finance Committee during the FY 2026–27 Budget Hearings with a framework and analysis for expedited sworn and civilian hiring. The report should present a range of options, including: (1) front-funding hiring through various means and methods; (2) expanding resources and expertise within the Personnel Department; (3) deployment models that better utilize programs within the affected employee labor organizations such as apprenticeship programs; and (4) transferring hiring functions from the Personnel Department directly to city departments.

PRESENTED BY

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SECONDED BY:

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MAR 27 2026