

Communication from Public

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Comments for Public Posting: Dear Council Members, I am writing to express my strong support for the LAFD CERT training initiative. I have personally completed CERT training hosted by the Neighborhood Council Valley Village and successfully passed the training. I found the program to be highly informative, engaging, and exceptionally valuable for strengthening community safety and emergency preparedness. I therefore strongly recommend that all Neighborhood Councils and community stakeholders encourage participation in CERT. CERT training equips participants with practical knowledge to better support their communities during emergencies. In my view, the presence of CERT-trained volunteers is not only beneficial, but essential—particularly in the event of a natural disaster. By expanding the number of trained residents, we enhance our community's resilience and ability to respond effectively when it matters most. At the Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils meeting held on Thursday, August 14, I heard discussion related to this topic. It appears there may be some misunderstanding regarding what, if any, requirements or expectations are placed upon Neighborhood Councils following the completion of CERT training. I respectfully encourage the Council to ensure that any such concerns are clarified and addressed, and to recognize the significant value that CERT brings to Neighborhood Councils and the communities they serve. I also commend the City Council for recognizing the work performed by many of the City's 99 Neighborhood Councils in communicating timely information between the City and its stakeholders. Neighborhood Councils are uniquely positioned to disseminate critical preparedness and response resources within their communities. Finally, I thank the City Council for highlighting the LAFD CERT Program, which has provided free emergency preparedness classes throughout the City of Los Angeles since 1986 and is currently celebrating its 40th year of service to the community. For these reasons, I urge the City Council to support and vote in favor of the CERT training initiative. Respectfully submitted, Lionel Mares, MPA Formerly on Sun Valley Area Neighborhood Council