

Communication from Public

Name: Cristina Cosgrove
Date Submitted: 08/17/2026 10:31 PM
Council File No: 26-0906-S4
Comments for Public Posting: Please see attached.

Dear Council Members,

As a board member and stakeholder in the Sun Valley community, I respectfully oppose and reject the recommendation that a majority of Neighborhood Council board members be required to obtain and maintain certification through the Los Angeles Fire Department's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program.

Neighborhood Council board members are volunteers who dedicate their personal time to serving their communities. Volunteer service should not be conditioned upon mandatory training requirements that extend beyond the responsibilities many individuals originally agreed to undertake. While CERT training is certainly valuable for those who choose to participate, it should remain voluntary rather than becoming a requirement for service.

It is important to recognize that emergency response is the responsibility of trained and compensated public agencies and professionals. The city employs numerous personnel whose roles include emergency preparedness, public safety, and disaster response. In addition, agencies such as the Los Angeles Fire Department, Los Angeles Police Department, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, The United States National Guard, and all other governmental entities are specifically tasked with responding to emergencies and are provided the training, resources, and compensation necessary to carry out those duties.

Requiring volunteer board members to assume additional obligations risks discouraging community participation and creating unnecessary barriers to civic engagement. Neighborhood Councils should focus on fostering public involvement, not imposing requirements that may limit residents' willingness or ability to serve.

For these reasons, I strongly oppose any recommendation that would require Neighborhood Council board members to obtain or maintain CERT certification as a condition of service.

Respectfully,

Cristina Cosgrove

Communication from Public

Name: Christy Adair

Date Submitted: 08/17/2026 09:16 PM

Council File No: 26-0906-S4

Comments for Public Posting: See attached CIS pdf for the August 19th City Council Meeting Agenda during Public Comment. Christy Adair

August 17, 2026

In favor of CF 26-0906-S4

My name is Christy Adair of Sherman Oaks and I write this from my personal perspective and not on behalf of any organization.

Firstly, I'm disappointed in the Neighborhood Councils who only focus on a singular, non-related aspect of this motion.

This motion is about several things and in no way is making any requirements at this time. The motion is a Report-Back to see if LAFD is able to scale-up their training to include 1200-1500 new students from the NC system. The motion asks for a report to identify costs for training and if there is a possibility to deliver this training in a hybrid option.

This motion also confirms the City Council's appreciation for the NC system and recognizes them as local leaders in their community. It is true that the NC Leaders have the ability to act as force-multipliers by pushing emergency notifications to their stakeholders in a different way than the City Notification systems are able. That connection is vital in a local emergency.

This motion also acknowledges that the CERT program in Los Angeles is an excellent means to offer emergency preparedness, endurance and recovery to all citizens of the City. While the full 7-module class is free and taught by LAFD Firefighter Instructors; there are other classes and workshops available to communities on home preparedness and go-kits; Stop the Bleed; Hands-Only CPR; as well as Utility shut-off and fire pan training - to name a few.

For future discussions, the mandatory requirement will never be approved for NC/City volunteers and that focus at this time should not create an AGAINST vote on this motion.

This motion should bring a positive conversation between NCs and their stakeholders about preparedness plans in their communities. Free, local trainings would help increase awareness and dial-in better communication during and after a disaster. I would ask all NCs to sponsor at least one CERT Class in 2027 as well as connect with their local CERT Coordinators for supplemental training opportunities.

The CERT curriculum has one rule – that you stay safe at all times. The class is designed for you to ensure your safety, then your family and home; then if it is safe, and you can - to check on your immediate neighbors. The curriculum does not require any student of the program to become a disaster responder.

As a NC board member, we took an oath to represent our stakeholders even when our own opinions are different. How would your stakeholders want you to vote on a motion related to promote their personal safety?

With Respect,



Christy Adair