

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 08/18/2026 06:58 PM

Council File No: 26-0906-S4

Comments for Public Posting: I absolutely support emergency preparedness and believe Neighborhood Council members should have access to CERT training and other emergency-response resources. However, there is a significant difference between encouraging and providing access to training and requiring volunteers to obtain certification as a condition of serving their communities. Neighborhood Council positions are voluntary. Residents give their time, often on top of full-time jobs, family responsibilities, and other obligations, because they care about their neighborhoods and want to contribute to their communities. If the City believes CERT certification is essential enough to require of the people who volunteer to serve on Neighborhood Councils, then we should ask why the same standard is not being applied broadly to City employees who interact with residents, provide public services, or may be involved in an emergency. It is not reasonable to place an additional mandatory certification requirement on unpaid community volunteers while treating emergency preparedness as optional for the City's paid workforce. I also believe we need to look honestly at what happened during the Lineage fire. When the fire began, Neighborhood Council members and community leaders needed timely information so they could help communicate with their residents. Yet Neighborhood Councils had to go to the Town Hall to receive updates. If the City cannot establish effective communication with Neighborhood Councils from the beginning of an emergency, what good is requiring those volunteers to have a CERT certification? CERT training can teach someone how to respond during an emergency, but it does not solve a breakdown in communication between City departments and the community leaders who are expected to help disseminate information. Preparedness is not just about what a volunteer knows—it is also about whether the City has a system in place to communicate with, coordinate with, and support those volunteers during an actual emergency. There is also a risk that this requirement will unintentionally reduce participation in Neighborhood Councils. The people most likely to be affected may be the very residents we need at the table—working people, parents, seniors, and residents who already face barriers to participating in civic life. Instead of making certification mandatory, I urge the City to

expand access to CERT training, make it convenient and accessible, and strongly encourage Neighborhood Council members to participate. The City should also strengthen its emergency communication protocols with Neighborhood Councils so that these community leaders receive timely, accurate information from the beginning of an emergency. Neighborhood Councils should be empowered, not burdened with additional requirements that could discourage residents from volunteering. Preparedness must be a shared responsibility. If the City expects Neighborhood Council volunteers to be prepared to serve their communities during an emergency, then the City must also be prepared to communicate with and support them when that emergency occurs. For these reasons, I respectfully ask the City Council to reject this motion and pursue a voluntary, accessible approach to CERT training while strengthening the City's emergency communication and coordination with Neighborhood Councils.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 08/18/2026 09:06 PM

Council File No: 26-0906-S4

Comments for Public Posting: I oppose this motion. As a Sun Valley resident, I have seen firsthand the significant time and effort that members of our neighborhood council volunteer to improve our community. In addition to attending and preparing for board and committee meetings, members organize and carry out events—all on their own time, often while balancing full-time jobs and family responsibilities. Earlier this year, the Sun Valley Neighborhood Council's Public Safety/Emergency Preparedness Committee organized CERT courses in Sun Valley that were open to anyone in the city. The classes, held at the Waste Management facility, were taught by two knowledgeable and engaging LAFD firefighters. Months later, the committee organized an Emergency Preparedness Resource Fair at the Sun Valley Library. I am grateful that our neighborhood council prioritizes bringing these valuable resources to our community. I do not believe the City should require neighborhood council volunteers to complete CERT training. Rather than adding more mandatory requirements to neighborhood councils, we should empower them to continue serving their communities. That starts with protecting (and increasing) their budgets so they have the resources to reach and engage more residents. Emergency preparedness is ultimately a personal responsibility, and residents should be encouraged and empowered to take steps to prepare themselves, their families, and their households for emergencies. Our neighborhood council volunteers already give their time and energy to make our neighborhoods a stronger and more prepared community. We should support that work—not add additional demands to it.

Communication from Public

Name: Norma O. Chávez

Date Submitted: 08/18/2026 11:27 PM

Council File No: 26-0906-S4

Comments for Public Posting: The Sun Valley Area Neighborhood Council voted "for only if amended" on CF 26-0906-S4 with a quorum of 10 members present out of fifteen. SVANC believes CERT training should be voluntary and it should not be done remotely as this is a hands-on training. It should be highly encouraged, but it should not be a requirement to be a board member. SVANC takes public safety very seriously and that is why they worked with LAFD to provide a CERT class in January of this year. Seven SVANC board members became CERT certified, 2 other were already certified, so the majority of the board members already meet this proposed requirement. SVANC also organized an Emergency Preparedness Fair to provide more resources to our community and create awareness of being prepared for natural disasters. We also offer presentations/workshops during the Emergency Preparedness Committee meetings to provide more educational materials on public safety and promote in our social media other neighborhood councils' public safety events. Please review this motion. An official CIS was supposed to be submitted, but the website is not giving us access.