



President Becky Leveque; Vice President Hilda Sarkisyan; Secretary Christine Demirtshian;
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Asaad Alnajjar; Bright Aregs; Nune Gipson; Deborah Violante; Patrick Gipson

Rev. 03-06-2025

March 12, 2025

Los Angeles City Council and its Committees

Los Angeles City Hall

200 N Spring St

Los Angeles, CA 90012

Subject: Support for Council File 24-1600 LAFD Service Impact on Operations & CERT Funding

Dear Honorable Members of the Los Angeles City Council,

On behalf of the Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council (PRNC), we strongly support Council File 24-1600, which urges city leaders to prioritize and protect funding for the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) emergency response programs, particularly the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), air operations, tactical EMS units, and disaster response teams.

As a community that has faced significant wildfire threats, public safety concerns, and other emergency challenges, Porter Ranch understands firsthand the critical role that CERT and other emergency services play in protecting lives, property, and infrastructure. CERT has proven invaluable in training residents to be prepared for disasters, ensuring that communities can respond effectively and swiftly in the crucial moments before first responders arrive.

Key Benefits of CERT for Porter Ranch and Beyond:

1. Rapid Emergency Response & Community Resilience

In the event of an earthquake, wildfire, or other disasters, CERT-trained volunteers are equipped to provide life-saving aid, organize evacuation efforts, and support emergency services.

These trained individuals bridge the gap between disaster onset and professional emergency response, reducing casualties and property loss.

2. Disaster Preparedness & Public Safety Enhancement

CERT empowers residents with knowledge and skills in first aid, search and rescue, fire suppression, and emergency communication.

With wildfires and earthquakes posing persistent risks in our area, a well-trained, community-based emergency workforce is essential for survival and recovery.



3. Support for LAFD & First Responders

CERT alleviates the burden on firefighters and paramedics by assisting in triage, logistics, and emergency coordination.

In major incidents, having trained community volunteers can prevent emergency services from being overwhelmed and ensure a more organized response.

4. Low-Cost, High-Impact Investment in Public Safety

Funding CERT is a cost-effective way to enhance disaster resilience without the need for substantial infrastructure investments.

The return on investment in CERT is undeniable, as prepared communities experience lower casualty rates, faster recovery, and reduced emergency response costs.

Urgent Need for Full Funding

Cutting funding for CERT would be a grave mistake one that weakens our city's preparedness, endangers residents, and places unnecessary strain on emergency responders. Instead, we urge city leaders to view CERT not as an expense but as an investment in safety, resilience, and emergency readiness.

The Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council stands united with other neighborhood councils, emergency preparedness advocates, and first responders in demanding full and continued funding for CERT and other vital emergency response programs.

We appreciate your leadership in safeguarding Los Angeles communities and urge you to pass Council File 24-1600 with full funding allocations for CERT and related emergency response initiatives.

Thank you for your time and commitment to public safety.

Sincerely,

*Hilda Sarbisyan
for Becky Leveque*

Becky Leveque, Board President

Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council

Patrick Gipson

Patrick Gipson, Board Member

Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council