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CALIFORNIA



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July 11, 2023

Kristin M. Crowley
Fire Chief,
Los Angeles Fire Department

Re: [BFC-23-055] - LAFD STANDARDS OF COVER ANALYSIS

Chief Crowley:

At our regularly held public meeting on **July 11, 2023**, the Board of Directors of the Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council (“DLANC”) voted to provide the following comments:

As one of the fastest-growing communities in Los Angeles, Downtown’s need for enhanced fire and emergency medical services (EMS) is greater than ever as our community also struggles with a larger full-time residential population and the growing houselessness crisis.

The June 6, 2023 “LAFD Standards of Cover Analysis” report presented to the Board of Fire Commissioners outlines that Battalion 1 fire stations serving Downtown are some of the busiest stations citywide and serve neighborhoods with some of the highest population per square mile in the western United States. In fact, the Downtown Los Angeles Community Plan anticipates 100,000 new housing units to be completed by 2040 which would significantly increase density and with it, the need for additional fire/EMS resources.

As such, DTLA Fire Stations are under-equipped to serve the area’s growing needs, and do not have the physical space to accommodate additional rescue ambulances and other specialized EMS units such as Advanced Provider Response Units (APRU) and Sober Units.

Fire Stations 10 (1951) and Fire Station 9 (1960) –two of the busiest fire stations in the City – are both over 60 years old. Other factors such as delays at hospitals and the worsening opioid epidemic, mental health, and houselessness crises put a severe strain on resources in the field. Additionally, the report outlines that fire stations in DTLA are primarily running EMS-related calls which aligns with citywide models showing a greater need for the department to support enhanced EMS services in over-burdened communities.

Therefore, DLANC asks that the Department and Commission consider the following recommendations as it relates to the findings referenced in the report:

- Support recommendations in the report to add additional fully-staffed ALS and BLS rescue ambulances at Fire Stations 3,4, and 11.
- Increase EMS resources in DTLA and Westlake, such as additional Fast Response Vehicles to supplement the evolving needs for EMS response as well as the growing trend of “rubbish” fires.
- Consider recommending to the City Council the creation of a new proposition bond measure similar to Prop F, to fund the construction of new fire stations, to include stations in Downtown, to serve the growing population needs, aging facilities, and need for additional apparatus space and staff housing.

Sincerely,

Claudia Oliveira
President,
DLANC

Debby Zhou
Chair,
DLANC Livability Committee

Cc: Board of Fire Commissioners (via email)
Operations Central Bureau, Los Angeles Fire Department (via email)
Mayor’s Office of Public Safety (via email)
Council District 14 (via email)
Council District 9 (via email)
Council District 1 (via email)