

Community Impact Statement Recommendation

To: Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Board
From: Livability Committee
Date Approved by Committee: 04/11/24
For Board Consideration on: 05/14/24

Re: Council File 24-0326: New Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) Stations / Downtown Los Angeles / Equitable Hazard Emergency Services

Motion or Recommendation of the committee:

The Livability Committee recommends a vote on CF [24-0326](#).

For	X
For if amended	
Against unless amended	
Against	

Committee Vote Count: Yes (4), No (0), Abstention (0), Absent (2), Recused (0)

Summary:

The Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) currently has 106 stations across Los Angeles including 11 in Council District 14 and 7 in Downtown Los Angeles alone. Currently, Station 9 is the busiest station, receiving an average of 81 calls for service per day.

Currently, 52% of the City's fire stations are over 50 years old and in need of repairs and/or upgrades. As LAFD infrastructure continues to age, many of the stations are at capacity and operate on staffing levels that are far less than other major Cities. As the needs of the Fire Department have evolved over the years, the additional stations and their design may also evolve, new stations may not need to be the same size or typology as traditional fire stations.

The Council File instructs the General Services Department (GSD) to report back in 30 days with potential locations for new Fire facilities in Downtown Los Angeles. When analyzing locations, GSD is to consult with the Department of City Planning on where future development is anticipated.

The Council File additionally instructs that the City Administrative Officer, in consultation with the Fire Department and the General Services Department, report back with potential funding sources to lease or acquire new Fire facilities.

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA



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WWW.DLANC.COM

EMAIL: DLANC@EMPOWERLA.ORG

May 14, 2024

Re: Community Impact Statement on CF 24-0326: New Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) Stations / Downtown Los Angeles / Equitable Hazard Emergency Services

To Whom It May Concern:

At our regular public meeting on May 14, 2024, the Board of Directors of the Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council (“DLANC”) voted to provide the following comments below:

The Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council submits this Community Impact Statement in **support** of CF 24-0326: New Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) Stations / Downtown Los Angeles / Equitable Hazard Emergency Services.

As one of the fastest-growing communities in Los Angeles, Downtown’s need for enhanced fire and emergency medical services (EMS) is critical to accommodate a growing full-time residential population and the homelessness crisis.

The June 6, 2023 “LAFD Standards of Cover Analysis” report presented to the Board of Fire Commissioners (BFC) 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 Fast Response Vehicles.

In addition, Fire Stations 10 (1951) and Fire Station 9 (1960) –two of the city's busiest fire stations—are over 60 years old and are in desperate need of modernization or replacement to address the backlog of deferred maintenance and lack of space for fire personnel and their respective apparatus.

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 BFC Standards of Cover Analysis 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 relevant Departments and Council to consider the following recommendations in any report backs related to this Council Motion:

- Support the recommendations and findings in the LAFD Standards of Cover Analysis and incorporate these recommendations in any future report-backs to Council
- Consider the creation of a new proposition bond measure similar to Prop F, to fund the construction of new fire stations, to serve the growing population needs, aging facilities, and the need for additional apparatus space and firefighter housing.

*** SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY DLANC BOARD OF DIRECTORS ON MAY 14, 2024 ***

Sincerely,

Claudia Oliveira
President,
DLANC

Debby Zhou
Chair,
DLANC Livability Committee

Cc: Public Safety Committee, City Council (via email)
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)
City Administrative Officer (via email)

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Currently, 52% of the City's fire stations are over 50 years old and in need of repairs and/or upgrades. As LAFD infrastructure continues to age, many of the stations are at capacity and operate on staffing levels that are far less than other major Cities. As the needs of the Fire Department have evolved over the years, the additional stations and their design may also evolve, new stations may not need to be the same size or typology as traditional fire stations.

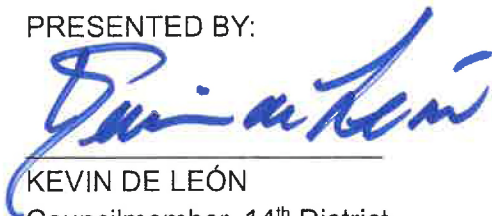
An independent analysis of the Fire Department completed in 2023 has shown that the LAFD is one of the busiest pre-hospital care providers in the country. Additional resources and facilities will ensure that all Angelinos have equitable access to all hazard emergency services.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the General Services Department (GSD) be instructed to report back in 30 days with potential locations for new Fire facilities in Downtown Los Angeles.

I FURTHER MOVE that when analyzing locations, GSD be instructed to consult with the Department of City Planning on where future development is anticipated.

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Administrative Officer, in consultation with the Fire Department and the General Services Department, be instructed to report back with potential funding sources to lease or acquire new Fire facilities.

PRESENTED BY:



KEVIN DE LEÓN
Councilmember, 14th District

SECONDED BY:



ORIGINAL


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