

MOTION

PUBLIC SAFETY

The Fire Department (LAFD) provides all-risk fire and Emergency Medical Services to the nation's second-largest city, yet employs 3,520 Firefighters, which is below the National Fire Protection Association recommended ratio of firefighters to population.

The LAFD secured the services of Citygate and Associates, LLC (Citygate) to conduct a Standards of Cover (SOC) deployment analysis. Based on undesirable response travel time data, Citygate found that an area near Woodman Avenue and Roscoe Boulevard in Panorama City would benefit from a new fire station staffed with an additional engine company. This area is currently protected by a sole Fire Engine housed at Fire Station 7. When Engine 7 is tasked with an emergency incident, travel times in this area are further extended for simultaneous incidents.

The availability of Fire Companies to respond in a timely manner to structure fires, wildland fires, medical emergencies, and other all-risk hazards saves lives and limits property damage. The LAFD must be allocated adequate staffing to ensure equitable service availability across the City.


The funding approval, land procurement, and construction of a new fire station takes three to five years. The LAFD has applied for and been awarded a federal Staffing For Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant in the amount of \$7,752,582. This amount includes funding for the addition of a second Fire Engine at Fire Station 7 to improve response times in the area near Woodman Avenue and Roscoe Boulevard in Panorama City. The City Council authorized acceptance of the SAFER grant on October 20, 2023 (CF 17-1434-S6).

The SAFER grant funding will offset the fiscal impact to the City to deploy an additional Fire Engine to Fire Station 7 ahead of the construction of a needed additional station. The LAFD is in the process of reporting to the Board of Fire Commissioners as to the programming of the SAFER grant and the authorization of twelve additional positions to staff said Fire Engine. The LAFD seeks to have the position authorities effective April 2024.

These efforts will improve service to the area Citygate identified as having a fire and EMS response gap. Additionally, the programming and staffing to the LAFD will improve the overall availability of Fire Companies in the San Fernando Valley area.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Fire Department be instructed to report to the City Council within 30 days on the status of SAFER grant programming approved under CF 17-1434-S6 and staffing to support a second Fire Engine at Fire Station 7 and its delivery of services to the community.

PRESENTED BY:



IMELDA PADILLA
Councilmember, 6th District

SECONDED BY:



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