



Officers
President: Ann Job
Vice President of Administration: Diane Valencia
Vice President of Communications: Kathy Grubert
Treasurer: Alex Guerrero
Public Relations Coordinator: Maria Silva

March 24, 2016

Mayor Eric Garcetti
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Re: Council File 15-1252-S1
Long-term solutions for reducing Sylmar area call response times for fire and emergency medical services

Dear Mayor Garcetti:

The above Council File has been identified by the Sylmar Neighborhood Council to be of utmost importance. Through our own research and investigation, we have become informed about the significant challenges that the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) has in servicing our community. As an expression of our concern on behalf for our community, at our General Board Meeting on September 24, 2015 the Sylmar Neighborhood Council declared a state of emergency related to our current LAFD resources. For the sake of the safety and security of our community, we feel it is imperative that funding for additional LAFD staffing and resources in Sylmar be included in the 2016-2017 City budget. Such funding would provide the community of Sylmar with much-needed immediate and longer-term solutions to our current LAFD staffing and resources. Sylmar cannot afford to wait several more years for discussions about propositions and bond measures to move forward. This is a public safety emergency for our community.

COUNCIL FILE STATUS & SUPPORT

We are grateful to Councilmember Fuentes for introducing the original motion on October 21, 2015. Since then, this file has moved through the Public Safety Committee and the full City Council. Every step of the way we have been there as passionate advocates for the safety and well being of the community of Sylmar. Presently the amended and adopted motion states:

- 15-1252-S1, BE AMENDED to adopt the following in lieu of Recommendation 2 of the Report:**
- 2. REQUEST the City Administrative Officer (CAO) to work with the Mayor to consider including in the 2016-17 budget the following:**
- a. Restoration of closed engine at Fire Station 74 Tujunga
 - b. Restoration of closed engine at Fire Station 75 Mission Hills
 - c. **A plan and budget for the construction and renovation of Fire Station 91**
 - d. **Additional fire station in Sylmar with a truck and ladder company, engine company, and ambulance.**

HISTORY OF LAFD SERVICES & TODAY'S DIRE INADEQUACIES

For over sixty years, since its original construction in 1956, Sylmar has benefited greatly from the services of Fire Station 91, supplemented by other nearby fire stations. However, during those sixty years our community has experienced both explosive population growth and a reduction in services from our neighboring fire stations due to LAFD budget cuts in 2011. The combination of population growth and less support has resulted in response times in some sections of our community that are much longer than those of other communities. Current response times do not conform to National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standards. Further, our community's current LAFD resources are not aligned with our population and geography when compared to other Los Angeles area communities. For example, the City of Santa Monica has a population that is comparable to Sylmar, with 4 fire stations.

PAST EFFORTS TO INCREASE LAFD SERVICES

During the past several years, there have been several unsuccessful efforts to bring additional LAFD resources to our community, including attempts to purchase one or both unused fire stations in the City of San Fernando. In 2006 Council File 03-2160 discussed the possibility of constructing a Regional Fire Station to serve Sylmar and surrounding communities. Unfortunately, Sylmar was not initially made part of Prop F funding that greatly benefited other communities over the past few years through the renovation of existing fire stations and/or construction of new fire stations, nor were any Prop F surplus funds allocated to our community. Additional fire stations and meaningful, long-term resources for our community remain grave concerns.

In late 2015 we were pleased to have a part-time Fast Response Vehicle (FRV) deployed in our community as an interim measure. However, it is woefully inadequate for bringing our community's LAFD service levels up to NFPA Standards or to those enjoyed by other communities. Further, we understand, that the FRV is currently an unbudgeted resource that we are at risk of losing as an interim safety measure for our residents.

SYLMAR'S UNIQUE NEEDS & DEDICATED FIRE STATION 91 PERSONNEL

Sylmar is unique in many ways that contribute to our need for additional LAFD services:

- Sylmar is landlocked from the North, which limits the number of supporting fire stations that can respond to our community.
- Sylmar has a history of fire-related tragedies – from the Loop Fire in 1966 that resulted in the deaths of 12 members of the El Cariso Hotshots, to the Sayre Fire in 2008 that caused the worst loss of homes in the City's history.
- Station 91's district covers one of the largest geographical areas in the City.
- Station 91 must respond to multiple freeway systems (5, 118, 210) that surround Sylmar.
- Station 91, under mutual/automatic aid with LA County Fire, responds to emergencies up into the Newhall Pass, miles beyond Sylmar, as well as frequent calls in the hills above Sylmar on County land.
- Station 91 must deal with freight and Metrolink train incidents.
- Sylmar is a high wind velocity area, with areas of Sylmar noted as Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones.

We recognize the exceptional contributions of every member of the LAFD who works at Fire Station 91, as well as all other LAFD personnel who work to help support Sylmar from neighboring fire stations. We have no doubt that they are doing the very best job they can with the limited resources provided to them. That said, one fire station, especially one as old and small as Fire Station 91, with its limited staffing and resources, is grossly inadequate to meet the needs of our community.

FUNDING CONSIDERATIONS

Since 1980, Fire Station 91 has shared responsibility for providing the City of San Fernando with fire protection services. We believe that the revenue paid by the City of San Fernando to the City of Los Angeles over the many years this cooperative arrangement has been in place should be used to help offset costs associated with the expansion of our community's LAFD resources

Another likely revenue source exists via an annual special tax that since 2007 has been levied on properties within the Community Facilities District No. 8 (CFD 8). The stated purpose of CFD 8 was to finance certain public facilities, including a fire station. Property owners in the Legends at Cascades area of Sylmar have been paying that special tax since 2007. In 2006 there was a groundbreaking ceremony for Fire Station 31, which was to have been Sylmar's long-awaited second fire station. Fire Station 31 was tied to CFD 8 and, due to circumstances beyond the control of our CFD 8 property owners, construction of Fire Station 31 was never commenced. Yet the annual special tax has continued to be faithfully paid by CFD 8 property owners. In FY 2015-2016 alone, special taxes levied within CFD 8 totaled \$350,709.16. Since those funds have not, to date, been spent to provide Sylmar with additional LAFD services, the accumulated amount must by now be considerable. Therefore, it seems that, the combined revenues from the San Fernando agreement as well as the CFD 8 revenue are logical and rightful sources of revenue that could go a long way toward funding for our community's expanded LAFD resources.

We urge you to include in the 2016-2017 City budget, funding for the additional and long-term LAFD staffing and resources our community so desperately needs. To reiterate, Sylmar cannot afford to wait several more years for discussions about propositions and bond measures to move forward. Our residents are suffering, on a daily basis, with very long response times, which can make the difference between life and death. Most recently, we heard a personal story at our Town Hall meeting on Saturday, March 19, 2016 from a resident who called 911 five (5) days prior to that meeting and suffered through what likely was a 15 minute or longer wait for emergency personnel to arrive. His mother later died. Though the death of his mother may not be solely due to the incredibly long response time, it is likely a factor. This is not acceptable. How many more cases like this does our community need to endure before short-term, intermediate and long-term solutions are identified and implemented? We have a well-documented and demonstrated need for additional public safety resources.

We are pleased to know that you have previously stated that LAFD staffing and response times are among your priorities. We are also certainly grateful to have had the support of Councilmember Fuentes, the City Council's Public Safety Committee, and the full City Council. We now ask for your support and assistance. We stand ready to assist you in moving this issue forward.

Sincerely,



Ann Job
President



Diane Valencia
Vice President of Administration
Public Safety Liaison

Mayor Garcetti
March 24, 2016
Page 2 of 4

cc: Councilmember Felipe Fuentes
Members of the City Council Budget and Finance Committee
Members of the City Council Public Safety Committee
Fire Chief Ralph Terrazas
Chief Daryl C. Arbuthnott – Los Angeles Fire Department, Operations Valley Bureau
Los Angeles Board of Fire Commissioners
United Firefighters of Los Angeles City (UFLAC)
Jeff Gorell – Deputy Mayor for Homeland Security and Public Safety
Miguel Santana, CAO



LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT (LAFD) SYLMAR

**Community Town Hall Meeting
Sylmar Neighborhood Council
March 19, 2016**

Prepared by Diane Valencia - Vice President of Administration & Public Safety Liaison

LAFD – GENERAL INFORMATION

- Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD):
 - 106 Fire Stations
 - 471 square miles
 - Stations are grouped into 14 Battalions

- Station #91 is part of Battalion 12, which also includes:
(7) Arleta, (24) Shadow Hills / Sunland, (74) Tujunga / Sunland,
(75) Mission Hills, (77) Sun Valley, (98) Pacoima

- Battalion 12 services 73 square miles
(average Battalion size is 20-30 square miles)

- Battalion 12 services 15.5% of the City's entire geographic area with
only 6.6% of stations

- Stations #91, 98 and 75 serve Sylmar

FIRE STATION #91



- Station #91 serves the largest geographical area within Battalion 12 (12.6 square miles)
- Geographic area is larger with support for the City of San Fernando, mutual/automatic aid with LACOFD and into Newhall Pass
- Built in 1956
- 1 Paramedic Assessment Engine (Captain, Engineer, FF, FFPM)
- 1 Paramedic Rescue Ambulance (2 FFPMs)
- 1 Fast Response Vehicle (Part time/pilot program) (1 FF, 1 FFPM)

FIRE STATION #91

Fire Station 91 is consistently noted as one of the busiest stations in the San Fernando Valley

January, 2016 (all incidents)

Station 91 (Sylmar) – 464 incidents

➤ 1 Engine, 1 ALS Ambulance, 1 part-time FRV

Station 98 (Pacoima) – 517 incidents

Station 39 (Van Nuys) – 536 incidents

Station 89 (N. Hollywood) – 674

November 30, 2015 – Incident sampling

6:05 PM - Illegal fire (8 min. 26 sec.)

13247 W. Raven Street

- E91 (Engine)

6:26 PM - Traffic Collision

13159 N. Borden Avenue

- E91, RA91 (Rescue Ambulance)

6:48 PM - Medical Emergency

N. Gavina Avenue

- RA77, T75, E275, RA898
- NOTE: Station 77 is 11+ miles from the incident.

7:33 PM - Medical Emergency

Maclay St. @ Fenton

- RA87, E91
- NOTE: Station 87 is 10+ miles from incident

7:36 PM - Refuse / Garbage Fire (9 min. 31 sec)

15051 W. Polk Street

- T75, E275

8:27 PM – Investigation (almost immediate response)

13200 N. Borden Avenue

- E91

SYLMAR – Community Profile

- Population – approximately 91,000 (2012 Census); 41,922 in 1980 (City Planning)
- High wind velocity area
- Segments of Sylmar are classified as Very High Fire Hazard Severity (VHFHS) Zones.
- Large Industrial/Commercial Occupancies
- Large Multi-Unit Apartment Complexes (200+ units)
- Large Brush Area and Urban Interface (IAZ & MTZ)
- Multiple Freeway Systems
- Railroad Systems (Freight & Metrolink)
- Access only from South, East & West



SYLMAR – Large Scale Disasters

Loop Fire - November 1, 1966

Pacoima Canyon – 12 members of the El Cariso Hotshots perished.

San Fernando (Sylmar) Earthquake – February 9, 1971

6.6 magnitude, massive damage, building collapses at Veteran's Hospital, Olive View Hospital, 65 deaths, numerous injuries

Sylmar Tunnel Explosion- June 24, 1971

Methane gas tunnel explosion, Worst tunnel disaster in California history; 17 miners killed. OSHA was started in response to this incident.

Northridge Earthquake – January 17, 1994

Large number of residential fires in Sylmar, Oakridge & Tahitian Mobile Home Parks, 5/14 freeway interchange and bridge collapse in Newhall Pass

Marek Fire - October, 2008

Burned 4,824 acres, Damaged 41 residences, 1 commercial building; Destroyed 40 residences, 2 commercial buildings (outside of SNC jurisdiction)

Sayre Fire – November, 2008

Burned 11,282 acres; Destroyed more than 600 structures; 480 mobile homes, 9 single-family homes, 104 outbuildings and 10 commercial buildings.

"The worst loss of homes due to fire" in the City's history – 2nd only to the Bel Air fire in 1961 which claimed 484 homes

COMPARISON OF FIRE RESOURCES

Sylmar	Population 91,000 (2012)	12.74 square miles	1 fire station
Downey	Population 113,242 (2013)	12.5 square miles	4 fire stations
Burbank	Population 104,709 (2013)	17.14 square miles	6 fire stations
Santa Monica	Population 92,000 (2013)	8.3 square miles	4 fire stations
Monrovia	Population 37,101 (2013)	13.71 square miles	2 fire stations
Beverly Hills	Population 34,658 (2013)	5.7 square miles	3 fire stations
Vernon	Population 114 (2013)	5 square miles	3 fire stations

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO

- LAFD FS-91, 75 & 98 provides support to San Fernando.
- San Fernando contracts out fire protection services through LAFD



1211 1st Street, San Fernando

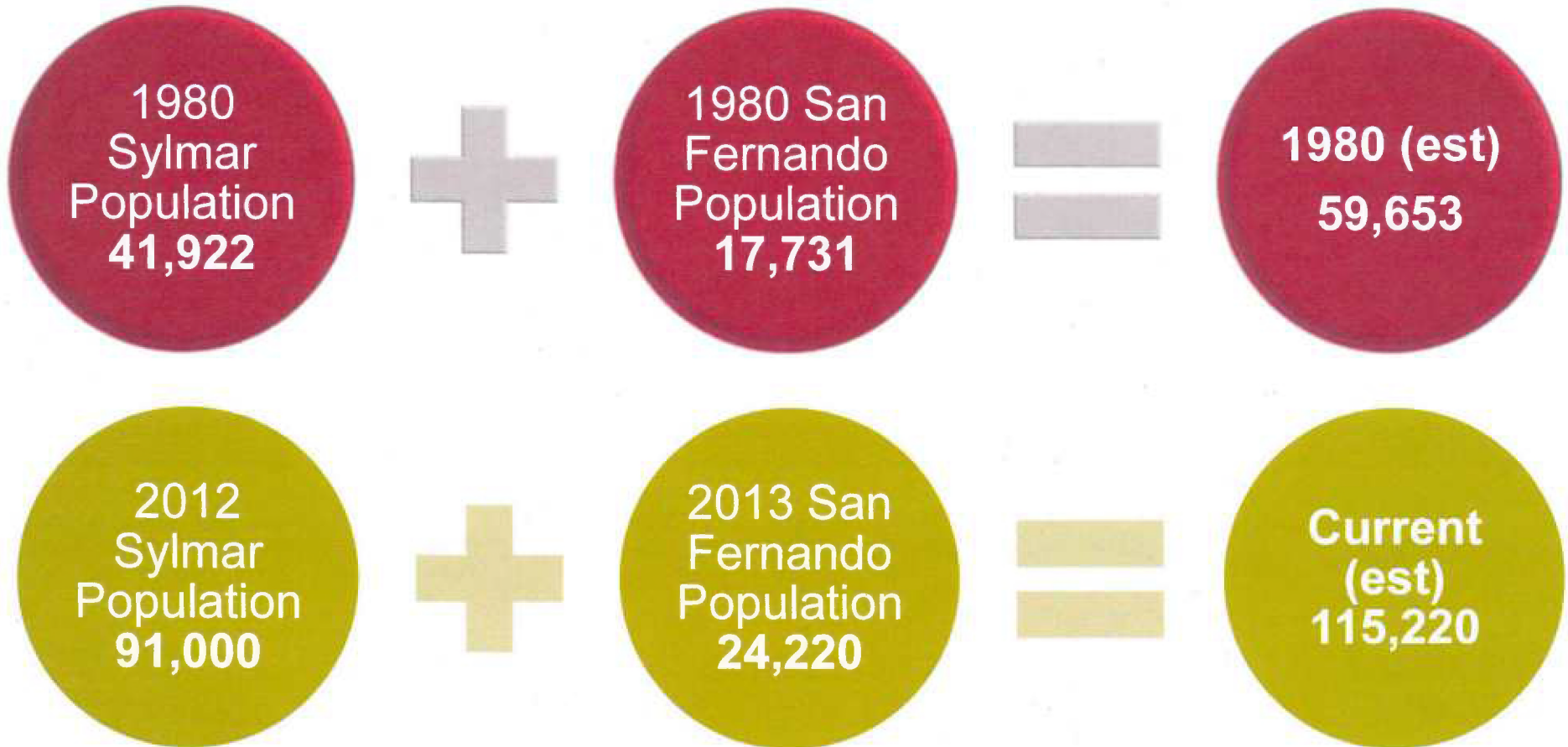
CITY OF SAN FERNANDO

- City of San Fernando sold both fire stations in 2014



519 South Brand Blvd., San Fernando

Sylmar / San Fernando Population



Population has nearly doubled since 1980 with no new resources

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO

Council File Number

03-2160

Date Received / Introduced:: 09/30/2003

Title

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO FIREHOUSE

Subject

Motion - The City of San Fernando contracts with the City of Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) who provides fire protection services to City of San Fernando residents. This contract has been ongoing since 1979. The City of San Fernando does not have its own fire department. The City of San Fernando owns and maintains two unused firehouses located within its city limits that are bounded by the Seventh Council District. The addresses of these firehouses are 1211 First Street and 519 SouthBrand Boulevard in the City of San Fernando. Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) believes that utilization of one of these unused firehouses could help the Los Angeles Fire Department to better serve both the residents of the northeast San Fernando Valley area of the City of Los Angeles as well as the City of San Fernando. **THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council request that the Los Angeles Fire Department and the Department of General Services report to the Public Safety Committee and the Information Technology and General Services Committee within 60 days with an analysis of how a City of San Fernando firehouse can be acquired/utilized by the City of Los Angeles and used as one of its regular fire stations.**

Last Change Date: 02/27/2009

Expiration Date: 08/19/2010

Council District 7

Mover: ALEX PADILLA

Second: CINDY MISCIKOWSKI

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

DALILA T. SOTELO
PRESIDENT

JILL FURILLO
VICE PRESIDENT

ANDREW FRIEDMAN
GENETHIA HUDLEY-HAYES
CASIMIRO U. TOLENTINO

BLANCA GOMEZ-REVELLES
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT II

CITY OF LOS ANGELES CALIFORNIA



ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA
MAYOR

RECEIVED
CD 5

APR 27 2006

FIRE DEPARTMENT

WILLIAM R. BAMATTRE
FIRE CHIEF

200 NORTH MAIN STREET
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

(213) 978-3800
FAX: (213) 978-3815

<http://www.lafd.org>

April 26, 2006

Honorable Jack Weiss
Councilmember, Public Safety Committee
Room 440, City Hall

Dear Councilmember Weiss:

Regional Fire Station Bordering the Cities of
Los Angeles and San Fernando (Council File No. 03-2160)

SUMMARY

In response to City Administrative Officer (CAO) report 0220-03859-0000 dated December 16, 2005, on the need and justification for a Regional Fire Station bordering the Cities of Los Angeles and San Fernando, the following is hereby submitted. Included is a discussion of:

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO

Text, in part, from April 26, 2006 LAFD letter/report:

- Fire stations in Sylmar, Pacoima, and Mission Hills provide the majority of service for the City of San Fernando. During the past five years, the demand for service has increased 29% in Sylmar, 14% in Pacoima, and 25% in Mission Hills.
- The following three fire stations serving the City of San Fernando are already filled beyond capacity, lack adequate office and dormitory space, and some of the ambulances and apparatus must park outside all day and all night due to inadequate space.
- Response times in Fire Stations 91's and 98's districts are among the highest in the San Fernando Valley.
- A new fire station on the border of the City of San Fernando and Pacoima on Arroyo Street at 8th Street would greatly decrease driving distances, and should reduce response times by over 30% in the City of San Fernando and portions of Sylmar and Pacoima.
- In view of the above and in concert with the LAFD's goal of providing the highest level of service to the community, the Department has determined that the Northeast San Fernando Valley needs a Regional Fire Station to meet the increasing demand for service from the neighboring communities. As such, **this project merits the highest prioritization relative to other unfunded LAFD capital projects.**

LAFD STATION #31

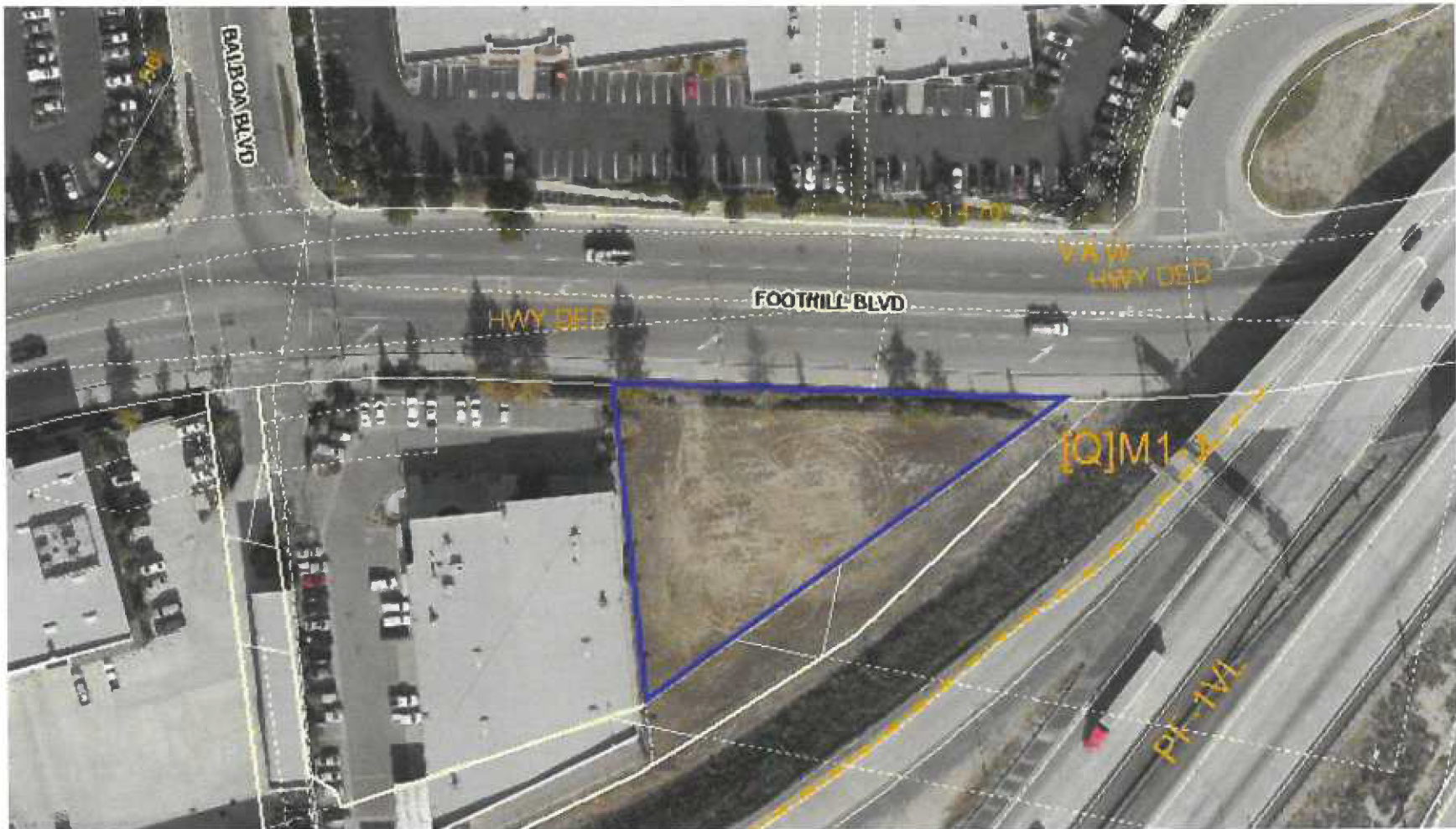
- Groundbreaking ceremony on November 1, 2006 highlighted the LAFD's intent to construct a new Fire Station serving the far north San Fernando Valley at 16320 Foothill Blvd., Sylmar, CA



- Construction was tied to a residential development

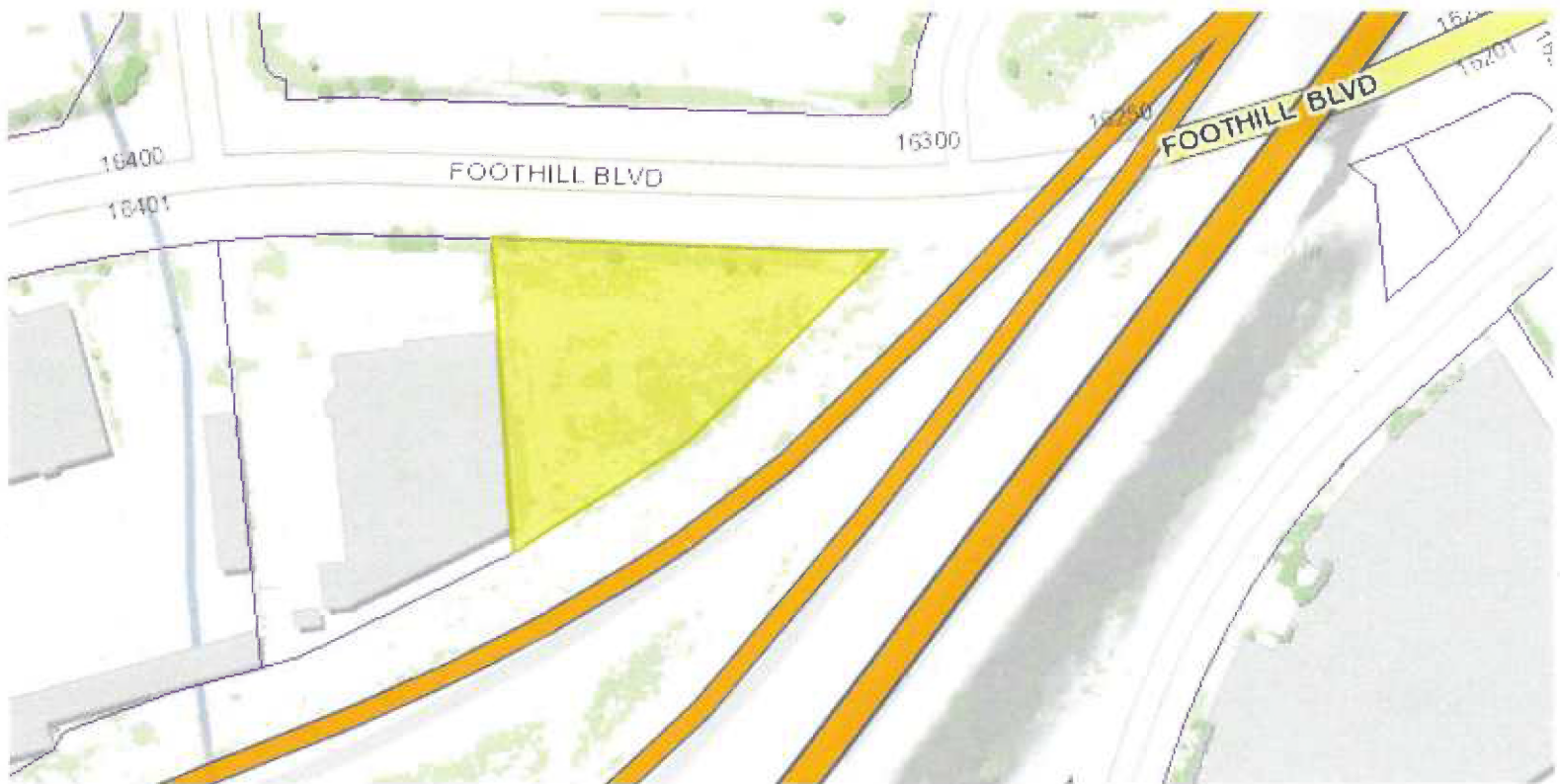
LAFD STATION #31

No station was built (per LAFD PIO, Brian Humphrey – 2014)
Reconfirmed with LAFD Fire Facilities Division – July, 2015



WHAT HAPPENED?

- Developer did not follow through with funding to begin construction
- Per LA County Assessor's Office on 8/4/15, the vacant land parcel (APN# 2603-007-038) is owned by Cascades Project Owner, LLC.



SYLMAR'S MISSING STATION 31

March 17, 2015

LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT



RALPH M. TERRAZAS
FIRE CHIEF

March 3, 2015

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
FILE NO. 15-023

TO: Board of Fire Commissioners

FROM:  Ralph M. Terrazas, Fire Chief

SUBJECT: LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT FIRE FACILITIES OVERVIEW

FINAL ACTION: Approved Approved w/Corrections Withdrawn
 Denied Received & Filed Other

SUMMARY

Attached for the Board of Fire Commissioners review is the Los Angeles Fire Department Fire Facilities report from the Training and Support Bureau.

DEVELOPER BUILD

As part of the land development agreement with the City of Los Angeles, the private developer provides the fire station (land, materials, construction, etc.) to ensure there is adequate emergency response coverage in the affected community.

- Fire Station 31 (16320 Foothill Boulevard, Sylmar) – This property has been donated by the developer; however, the private entity has not provided funding for construction.

Proposition F – Facilities Bond

- In 1998, the City of Los Angeles completed a Public Safety Facilities Master plan study. This study determined that most of the City's existing Fire Stations were too small to adequately house the necessary equipment and personnel for efficient deployment of resources. In order to mitigate and partially remedy these issues, Proposition F was placed on the ballot.
- On November 7, 2000, Los Angeles voters approved Proposition F. Proposition F authorized the issuance of \$532.6 million in General Obligation Bonds to finance the construction and rehabilitation of Fire Stations and Animal Shelters throughout the City of Los Angeles. **\$378.6 million of the bond was allocated to build 19 neighborhood Fire/Paramedic Stations and an Emergency Air Operations/Helicopter Maintenance Facility.**

What happens when you call 911?

Call Processing Time - The time interval that starts when the call is created by a Fire Dispatcher until the initial emergency response is dispatched.

- City Wide average for January, 2016 – **1 min. 2 seconds**

Turnout Time - The time interval between the activation of station alerting devices to when first responders put on their gear and are aboard apparatus and en-route (wheels rolling).

- Station 91's average for January, 2016 – **1 min. 9 seconds**

Travel Time - The time interval that begins when the first unit is en route to the incident and ends upon arrival of any of the units first on scene.

- Station 91's average for January, 2016 – **5 min. 20 seconds**

Average for Station 91 – 7 min., 31 seconds

Why are response times important?

- The American Heart Association's scientific position is that **brain death and permanent death start to occur in 4–6 minutes after someone experiences cardiac arrest.**
(Examples – heart attack, drowning, electrical shock)
- Cardiac arrest can be reversible if treated within a few minutes with an electric shock and ALS intervention (CPR, etc.) to restore a normal heartbeat. Verifying this standard are studies showing that a victim's **chances of survival are reduced by 7%–10% with every minute that passes without defibrillation and advanced life support intervention.**
- **Few attempts at resuscitation succeed after 10 minutes.**

RESPONSE TIMES

<http://graphics.latimes.com/how-fast-is-lafd/#11/34.0504/-118.6002>

INTERACTIVE MAP

How fast is LAFD where you live?

An analysis by the [Los Angeles Times Data Desk](#)

GO

Rescuers are expected to arrive to nearly all 911 calls within six minutes, a national standard LAFD leaders concede they routinely fail.

The Times analyzed more than a million runs by the Fire Department over the last five years and found that what Angelenos can expect often depends on where they live. You can read about the causes and patterns [in the Times story](#).

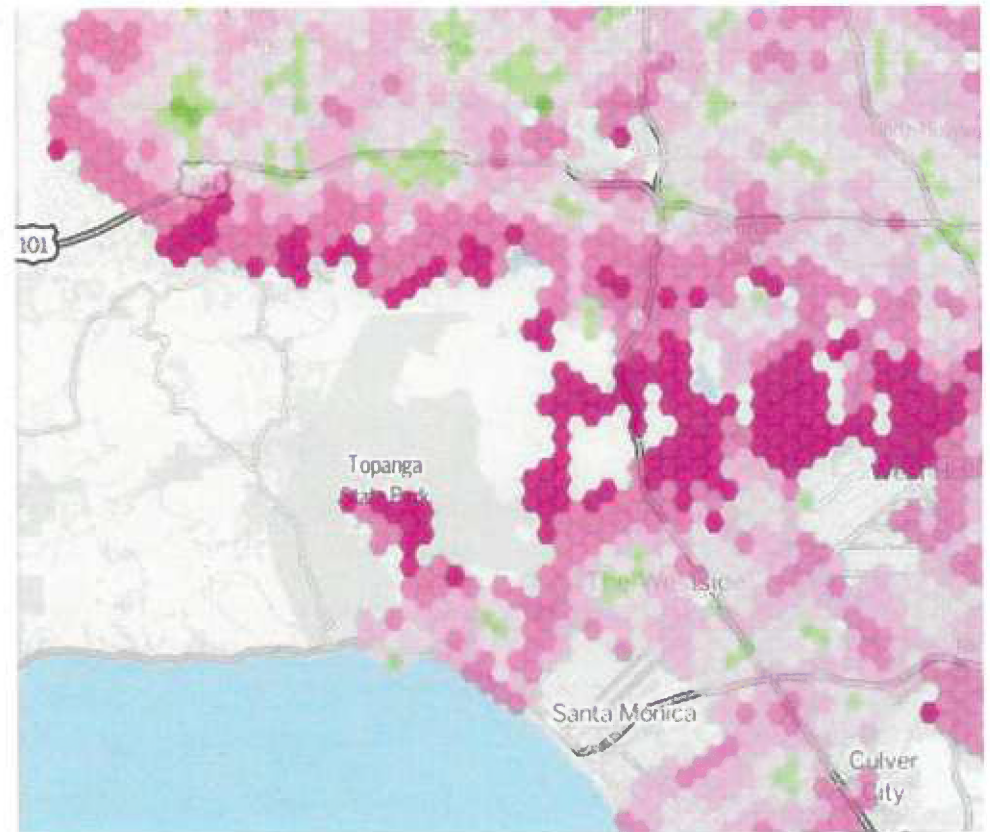
Use this map to compare the LAFD's performance across L.A.

Average full 911 response in minutes (2007-2012)



[National standards](#) say most responses should be under 6 minutes

Hide ▲



More about this map. Source: Times analysis of LAFD data. Credits: [Ben Welsh](#), [Robert Lopez](#), [Kate Linthicum](#). Map data: (c) [OpenStreetMap](#) contributors. [CC-BY-SA](#). [Terms of Service](#) [Privacy policy](#) **Los Angeles Times**

Can LAFD reach you in time?

RESPONSE TIMES

INTERACTIVE MAP

Hide ▲

How fast is LAFD where you live?

An analysis by the [Los Angeles Times Data Desk](#)

Alta Vista Way, Sylmar, CA 91342, USA

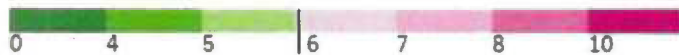
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Use this map to compare the LAFD's performance across L.A.

Average full 911 response in minutes (2007 - 2012)



[National standards](#) say most responses should be under 6 minutes

From 2007 - 2012:

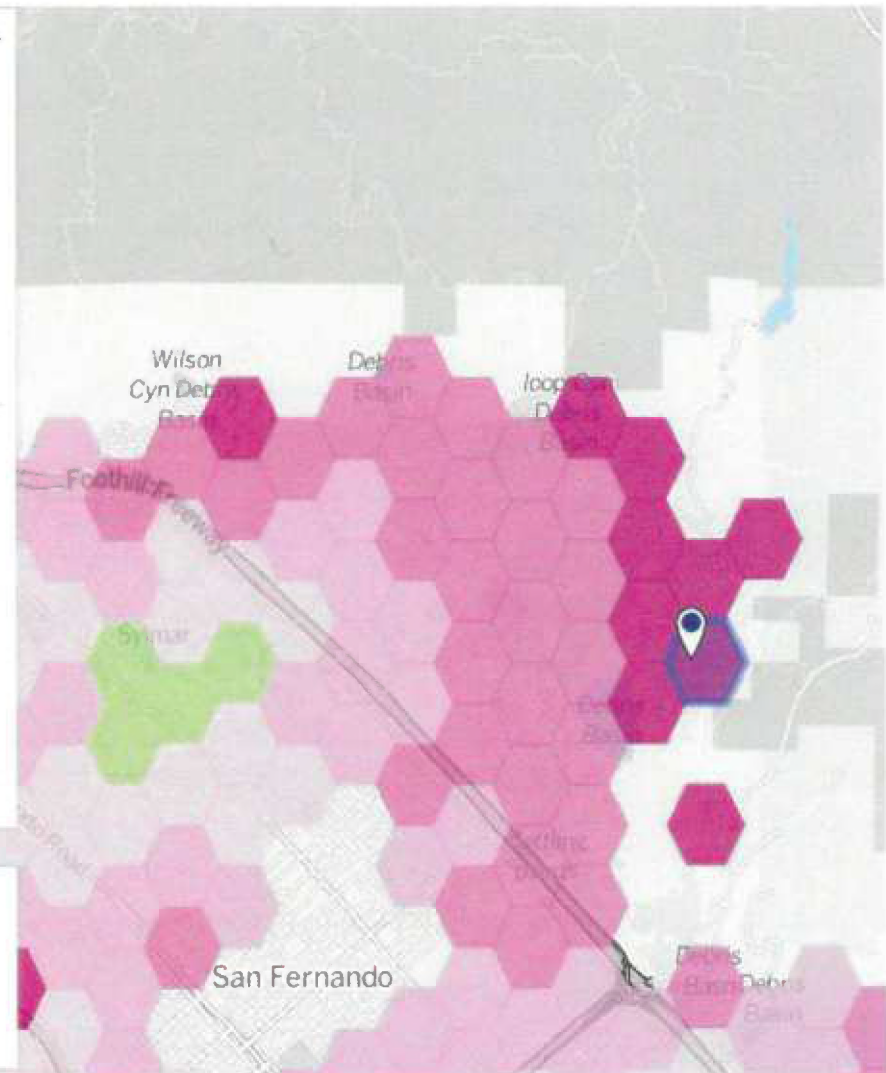
21 total responses

Medical 81% Fire 19%

12 min., 54-second average response

Avg. dispatch 1:16 Avg. arrival 11:34

414 seconds slower than national standards



FIRESTATLA – (www.lafd.org)

WELCOME TO THE
LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT



FIRE STATIONS

ALERTS

NEWS

RED FLAG

SAFETY

FIRE PREVENTION

FIRESTATLA

JOIN

FAQS

ABOUT

NON EMS

EMS

TURN OUT

01 12
MINS SECS

TRAVEL

05 16
MINS SECS

NUMBER OF
INCIDENTS

5238

STATION 91 RESPONSE METRICS, JANUARY - DECEMBER 2015

FireStatLA^{beta}

INCIDENT COUNT – STATION #91

The number of incidents that results in one or more LAFD units being dispatched.

2014 / 2015 Comparison

Non-EMS Calls 770 / 889 = +15%

EMS Calls 4,562 / 5,238 = +15%

Limited resources are often used as urgent care

80-85% of calls are medical

INCIDENT COUNT IN DISTRICT		
	Non EMS	EMS
Month		
Jan	60	365
Feb	55	352
Mar	66	393
Apr	49	377
May	79	340
Jun	59	379
Jul	69	382
Aug	63	384
Sep	54	406
Oct	47	428
Nov	76	365
Dec	93	391
Overall	770	4562

2014

INCIDENT COUNT IN DISTRICT		
	Non EMS	EMS
Month		
Jan	72	466
Feb	77	351
Mar	58	459
Apr	66	410
May	94	431
Jun	88	427
Jul	92	438
Aug	86	431
Sep	62	462
Oct	66	471
Nov	74	435
Dec	54	457
Overall	889	5238

2015

CITY BUDGET CUTS – 2011

- Severe budget cuts – in 2011, the City Council and Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa cut the LAFD's annual budget by \$88 million — from \$561 million in 2008 to \$473 million.
- 318 positions on the fire department were lost
- 18 fire apparatus were lost
- No new staff hired in 5 years
- As of July, 2015
 - LAFD projected 340 field vacancies
 - 185 retirements projected during 2015/2016
- Accelerated hiring plan may still take until sometime in 2016 to get back to 2008 staffing levels

IMPACTS OF BUDGET CUTS

Los Angeles Times article on December 4, 2012 (partial)

[December 04, 2012](#) | By Kate Linthicum, Robert J. Lopez and Ben Welsh

L.A. fire chief blames slower response times on budget cuts

Chief Brian Cummings was summoned to the City Council to explain the department's failure to produce a plan to improve service and cut response times. Instead, he says cost cuts increased response times.

"You gave us a budget," Cummings (Los Angeles Fire Chief) said during a nearly two-hour City Hall hearing. "We're giving you the most effective Fire Department that we can within that budget."

"The simple answer is money," Cummings said. "The way we improve response times is by putting more resources in the field."

"The cuts led to service "brownouts," which took units out of service on a rotating basis, and which were eventually replaced by a new deployment plan. Cummings, an assistant chief at the time who oversaw development of the redeployment, predicted response times would match pre-recession levels following the changes. But investigations by The Times and City Controller Wendy Greuel found response times for medical emergencies have increased over the last four years.

Councilman Richard Alarcon admonished his colleagues, saying they should have known their budget cuts would lead to slower response times. "Even Barry Bonds can't hit home runs with a plastic bat," said Alarcon, who voted against the cuts.

IMPACTS OF BUDGET CUTS

Los Angeles Daily News article – February 5, 2014

Los Angeles Fire Department needs until 2016 to get to full staffing

By [Rick Orlov](#), Los Angeles Daily News

With the Los Angeles Fire Department expected to lose about 120 firefighters this year through attrition, officials estimated Wednesday that it will take until March 2016 under an accelerated hiring schedule to get back to where the department was in 2008. Interim Fire Chief James Featherstone told the City Council he is doing all he can with overtime and by keeping firefighters on extra duty in order to provide full staffing at the city's fire stations.

"We are not looking back at how we got here today, but what we can do about it," Featherstone said. "We need to hire more people. We can't fill our vacancies without more bodies. At a certain point, it becomes a safety issue."

The City Council asked for reports on what is needed to open a second drill tower so five new classes can be trained this year as well as what can be done to improve the department's use of technology for responding to calls.

Featherstone said the Fire Department has submitted a budget request to Mayor Eric Garcetti that includes funding next year to hire firefighters at the 2008 level. Garcetti has said LAFD staffing and response times are among his priorities.

As part of that, a report on FireStatLA, a system modeled after the L.A. Police Department's CompStat program, is expected to be delivered in two weeks and will be rolled out as a pilot program.

Frank Lima, president of the United Firefighters of Los Angeles City, joined Featherstone in urging the city to hire more firefighters.

"We eliminated 318 firefighter positions ... and response times began to rise," Lima said. "We haven't hired a single new firefighter in five years. That is going to have an impact."

Dr. Mark Eckstein, medical director for the LAFD for the past 18 years, said the demands on the department are greater than ever before, particularly for medical treatment.

"We need to prepare for the future because the old version of emergency medical services is clearly unsustainable," Eckstein said. "In 18 years, we have doubled the number of paramedics, doubled the number of ambulances and our response times have gone up."

Councilman Paul Krekorian called for a review of how much time paramedics currently spend in emergency rooms. "They could be kept waiting for hours until a patient is admitted," Krekorian said. "We want them to be able to drop patients off and then get out where they can respond to calls."

CHALLENGES

Before a new station is built, staffing levels must first be increased.

There are costs associated with potential land acquisition and construction – this process also may take a few years.

There are ongoing costs to staff a Station...or Stations

The key...

FUNDING!

ACTION TAKEN

September 24, 2015

- During its monthly Board meeting, the SNC Board declared a state of emergency related to current LAFD resources in Sylmar along with sending a letter to our elected officials and other representatives asking for assistance.

September 29, 2015

- SNC sent letter to Councilmember Fuentes (CD7) asking for his assistance in advocating for additional LAFD resources for Sylmar.

ACTION TAKEN

October 21, 2015 - Councilmember Fuentes introduced two City Council motions.

MOTION

PUBLIC SAFETY

While the Fire Department (LAFD) has made great improvements in its service delivery and response times throughout the City, residents of the Sylmar area and the Sylmar Neighborhood Council have indicated that they still have concerns about the length of time it takes the Department to respond to emergency calls in their area. This area, which experienced one of the most devastating fires in City history, poses unique challenges to the Department, due to its close proximity to the Angeles National Forest and other undeveloped hillside areas. Residents and the Sylmar Neighborhood Council hope that the LAFD can undertake efforts quickly to reduce response times in the area.

One innovative tool that the LAFD has introduced recently is the Fast Response Vehicle (FRV). The FRV is a heavily modified brush patrol rig that carries firefighting and Advanced Life Support (ALS) equipment. It is designed to be a roving mobile resource to serve the community in a variety of ways, and is able to respond to calls quickly. One FRV has recently gone into service in the Sylmar area and is already having an impact by handling calls that would normally take an engine company or rescue ambulance out of service. The Department should report on the use of FRVs, as well as on any other efforts that would help reduce response times in the area.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Fire Department (LAFD) report on measures that can be taken to immediately address the longer response times experienced by the residents of Sylmar, including the use of Fast Response Vehicles (FRV) and other any other means the LAFD can use to quickly and efficiently respond to calls-for-service in the area. This report should include data on the recent rollout of the FRV in the Sylmar area, and its impact on response times.

PRESENTED BY


FELIPE FUENTES
Councilmember, 7th District

SECONDED BY



ORIGINAL

MOTION


PUBLIC SAFETY

Over recent years, the Fire Department (LAFD) has made great strides in delivering quality service in a timely manner across Los Angeles, which is even more impressive when the budgetary constraints faced by the Department during the Great Recession are taken into account. However, in some areas of Sylmar, residents have indicated that they are concerned with the length of response times to fire and emergency medical service calls. Given the history of disaster in the area, which experienced one of the most devastating fires in City history, residents of the area and the Sylmar Neighborhood Council are concerned that if response times are not reduced in the future, another disaster like the 2008 Sayre Fire will occur in the future.

The LAFD should be commended on its efforts to rebuild in recent years. However, the Department should also look into what long-term efforts can be undertaken to ensure that Sylmar does not continue to experience longer response times than other areas of the City in the future. This can include studying the feasibility of building a new fire station, an expansion of the current fire station, or other ways of ensuring that LAFD resources are available to quickly respond to emergency calls in the area.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Fire Department (LAFD) report on long-term solutions for reducing response times in the Sylmar area, including the feasibility of building a new fire station in the area, expanding Fire Station 91, or other ways to increase the resources available to respond to fire and emergency medical service calls in the area.

PRESENTED BY


FELIPE FUENTES
Councilmember, 7th District

SECONDED BY



ORIGINAL


OCT 21 2015

jwd

jwd

OCT 21 2015

ACTION TAKEN



November 2, 2015 - Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) Chief Ralph Terrazas, with members of the City Council and others, unveiled Monday the new *Fast Response Vehicle* (FRV) Pilot Program.

ACTION TAKEN

**Sylmar Neighborhood Council
President, Ann Job with
Sylmar's new FRV 401**



ACTION TAKEN

November 19, 2015 – Sylmar Neighborhood Council voted during its regular Board meeting to unanimously support the motions put forth by Councilmember Fuentes and approved draft Community Impact Statements to be submitted and attached to the Council files.

January 27, 2016 – Sylmar Neighborhood Council submitted a Community Impact Statement in support of each Council file, urging action.

ACTION TAKEN

February 2, 2016 – Both Council files were agendized for the City Council's Public Safety Committee meeting.

February 2, 2016 – A report on the Fast Response Vehicle (FRV) was agendized for the Board of Fire Commissioners meeting.

ACTION TAKEN

February 1, 2016

Letter submitted by the United Firefighters of Los Angeles City (UFLAC) in support of our call for action and the need for additional resources in our community.



UNITED FIREFIGHTERS
of
LOS ANGELES CITY
Local 112 IAFF AFL-CIO-CLC

February 1, 2016

Honorable Mitch Englander
Chairman
City Council Public Safety Committee
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Chairman Englander:

I am writing you regarding item #3 (Fuentes-Englander) on the Public Safety Committee Agenda for Tuesday, February 2 which asks the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) to identify ways to improve service and response times in the community of Sylmar.

The over 3,100 Firefighters and Paramedics of the United Firefighters of Los Angeles City (UFLAC) agree with the belief that the LAFD is inadequately staffed, especially in Sylmar and the surrounding communities of the Northeast San Fernando Valley. As our population has grown and calls for service have continued to increase, LAFD staffing in Sylmar and the Northeast San Fernando Valley has actually DECREASED over the past few years. This is unacceptable.

Fire Station 91 has proudly served the Sylmar community for decades. Unfortunately, in 2011 budget cuts forced the permanent closure of numerous LAFD resources Citywide and in the surrounding communities including the removal of an Engine at Fire Station 75 in Mission Hills and an Engine at Fire Station 74 in Tujunga. The permanent closures in the City took effect at Fire Stations with multiple fire suppression resources (Engine and Truck/Ladder Companies). A total of 11 Engine Companies, 7 Truck/Ladder Companies and 4 Ambulances were permanently closed throughout the City. This is important because Fire Station 91 has a single Engine Company and one Paramedic ambulance on site, so the ripple effect of permanently closing two Engines at adjacent fire stations has had a devastating impact on response times and our ability to serve the people of Sylmar. Additionally, Fire Station 91 also responds to calls in the City of San Fernando.

Recently, the LAFD added a Fast Response Vehicle (FRV) with one Paramedic and one Firefighter that is designated to serve the people of Sylmar and the



ACTION TAKEN

February 2, 2016

- Public Safety Committee moved to approve instructing the LAFD to report on measures that can be taken to immediately address the longer response times experienced by the residents of Sylmar, including the use of FRVs and any other means the LAFD can use to quickly and efficiently respond to calls for service in the area.
- Public Safety Committee moved to request the CAO to work with the Mayor to consider including in the 2016-2017 budget:
 - Restoration of closed engine at Fire Station 74 (Sunland-Tujunga).
 - Restoration of closed engine at Fire Station 75 (Mission Hills).
 - A plan and budget for the construction and renovation of Fire Station 91.**
 - Additional fire station in Sylmar with a truck and ladder company, engine company and ambulance.**

ACTION TAKEN

February 17, 2016

Matters went before full City Council and were approved as recommended by the Public Safety Committee and are now with the CAO and Mayor Garcetti for consideration in the 2016-2017 budget.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

1. Community Petition

www.ipetitions.com/petition/support-sylmar-lafd

2. Letters from the community to Mayor Garcetti



THANK YOU!

With thanks and gratitude to every member of the Los Angeles Fire Department for their dedication in providing exceptional service to our community.

Questions?

