



RALPH M. TERRAZAS  
FIRE CHIEF

July 19, 2019

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS  
FILE NO. 19-093

TO: Board of Fire Commissioners

FROM:  Ralph M. Terrazas, Fire Chief

SUBJECT: PARAMEDIC ASSESSMENT RESOURCES

FINAL ACTION:	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved w/Corrections	<input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn
	<input type="checkbox"/> Denied	<input type="checkbox"/> Received & Filed	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

### SUMMARY

The Los Angeles Fire Departments (LAFD) Strategic Plan 2018-2020, A safer City 2.0, goal 1 is to provide exceptional public safety and emergency service through sixteen different strategies. Strategy 2 is to improve the delivery of Emergency Medical Services and within this strategy one of the tactics to achieve the overall goal is to implement Paramedic Assessment resources at the remaining 24 stations, enabling the Department to be fully rotational. Since August of 2017, the Department has upgraded four Engine companies to become Paramedic Assessment resources, those Engines are; Engine 1, Engine 38, Engine 61, and Engine 93.

### RECOMMENDATION

That the Board:  
Receive and file.

### FINDINGS

In line with the Departments Strategic Plan, A Safer City 2.0, goal 1, strategy 2, tactic 3, the Emergency Medical Services Bureau (EMS) in conjunction with Emergency Operations has worked diligently to increase the number of Paramedic Assessment resources while also being mindful of our Paramedic vacancies, which as of July, 2019, is 33 City-wide. The implementation of additional Paramedic Assessment resources directly impacts Paramedic staffing, there for a careful balance of implementation must be maintained to assure that the LAFD is capable of staffing all of our paramedic positions on a daily basis.

Another tactic within goal 1, strategy 2 of the LAFD Strategic plan is to develop and implement an EMS Strategic Plan. The EMS Bureau has completed a draft strategic plan in which one of our goals is to make every fire station within the city rotational.

The Department continues to put 45 Firefighters into Paramedic school each fiscal year with an approximate 90% pass rate as well as hire new Firefighters that currently possess a valid paramedic license. While we are consistently infusing new paramedics into our department through the above methods, with attrition and promotions we will continue to carry between 23-40 paramedic vacancies through December, 2019.

Since August, 2017, the following Paramedic Assessment Engines upgrades have been implemented:

1. July 8, 2018 - Engine 1, Operations Central Bureau
2. January 6, 2019 - Engine 61, Operations South Bureau
3. April 14, 2019 - Engine 93, Operations Valley Bureau
4. July 21, 2019 - Engine 38, Operations South Bureau

### **CONCLUSION**

As of July 21, 2019, the Department has 57 Paramedic Assessment Engines and 26 Paramedic Assessment Light Forces, leaving only 20 fire stations being non-rotational. The Department understands that response time is the absolute priority for medical emergencies and that the timely arrival of a licensed paramedic to a medical emergency for quick advanced life support intervention is in line with providing exceptional public safety and emergency service and improves the delivery of our emergency medical services. While the Department has implemented four additional Paramedic Assessment Engines over the last two years, we will continue to evaluate the appropriate timing and balance to implement additional Paramedic resources.

Board Report prepared by Assistant Chief Ellsworth Fortman, Assistant Bureau Commander, EMS Bureau.