

November 19, 2019

# LOS ANGELES FIRE COMMISSION

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November 7, 2019

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS  
FILE NO. BFC 19-129R

TO: Board of Fire Commissioners

FROM: Independent Assessor

SUBJECT: QUARTERLY REPORT OF AUDITS

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 Withdrawn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

On February 19, 2019, the Board of Fire Commissioners (Board or Commission) requested that the Independent Assessor provide quarterly progress reports related to audits that are “in progress and that are contemplated by the Independent Assessor’s office.” This Report is prepared in compliance with that direction.

The Office of the Independent Assessor (OIA) is researching three reports; an audit examining the progress of recruits in Drill Tower classes 2013-1 through 2017-3, a review of the Los Angeles Fire Department’s (Department) deployment of the unmanned aerial system (UAS), and a review of how the Department handled complaints of misconduct in 2019.

One additional audit is being contemplated – an assessment of how the Department handled a subset of complaints of misconduct closed in the Complaint Tracking System (CTS) in 2018.

## RECOMMENDATION

That the Board approve the report.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **Report 1**

#### **Recruit Progress in Specified Drill Tower Classes**

The information related to this audit is presented in a separate report: BFC No. 19-130.

### **Report 2**

The Commission requested that the OIA review the Department's deployment of the Unmanned Aerial System (UAS), quarterly.

Preliminary objectives for this report will be developed after more research is conducted.

### **Report 3**

2019 annual review of complaints of misconduct.

### **Preliminary Scope and Methodology**

Review and assess cases filed and closed in the Los Angeles Fire Department's (LAFD or Department) CTS and Discipline Tracking System in 2019.

### **Preliminary Objectives<sup>1</sup>**

- A. Determine the number of cases filed annually 2009 through 2019.
- B. Determine the number of complaints closed in CTS in 2019 and compare them with the statistics from 2017 and 2018.
  1. Determine the number of complaints by category.
  2. Determine whether a complaint was filed by a Department employee, an external complainant, or an anonymous complainant.
  3. Determine the number of complaints assigned to be investigated by Professional Standards Division, Chain of Command (Field), or the Alternative Investigative Procedure (Alternative Process).
  4. Determine the number of complaints by adjudication.
  5. Determine whether the subject was a sworn or civilian employee.
  6. Determine the status of sustained cases, including the number of settlement agreements.
- C. Determine the total number of Settlement Agreements which included Education Based Discipline (EBD).
  1. Determine the number of members who re-offended since completing EBD.
- D. Determine the number of cases awaiting a hearing before a Board of Rights, at the end of 2019.

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<sup>1</sup> Objectives are subject to change based on the research.

**Report 4**

Assessment of how the Department handled a subset of complaints of misconduct that were closed in CTS in 2018.

The scope and preliminary objectives of this assessment are to be determined in conjunction with BFC No. 19-128.

I am available to provide any additional information the Commission may require.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sue Stengel". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

SUE STENGEL

Independent Assessor

Board of Fire Commissioners

cc: Ralph Terrazas, Fire Chief