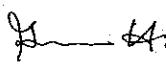


OCT 29, 2009  
BFC 08-159

DATE: October 27, 2008

TO: Board of Fire Commissioners

FROM: Genethia Hudley-Hayes, Chairperson   
Diana M. Bontá, Vice-Chairperson  
Fire Commission Budget Ad Hoc Committee

SUBJECT: FIRE DEPARTMENT PROPOSED 2009-10 BUDGET

On October 21, 2008, the Fire Commission Budget Ad Hoc Committee reviewed the Fire Department's proposed 2009-10 budget. After review of budget documentation, we determined that the Fire Department continues to make significant belt-tightening measures and exercise fiscal responsibility while providing the highest level of emergency response service to the citizens of Los Angeles. The fiscal challenges that the City is facing and the need to solve the deficit in a responsible manner were given the ultimate consideration. However, public safety needs continue to generate an increased demand on Fire Department resources.

We therefore, support the Fire Chief's proposed 2009-10 budget and recommend that the Board approves a budget that is in-line with the Department's current funding and staffing levels, along with an approximate \$9 million increase in new priority funding requests. It is apparent that minimally, a 2% overall budget increase is necessary to sustain critical emergency response service levels and firefighter safety. In compliance with the Mayor's budget policy and goals, the Department will include analysis of the impact that a 9% budget reduction would have on Department operations and public safety service reductions.

We look forward to working with the Mayor, City Council, Board of Fire Commissioners and the Fire Chief to resolve the fiscal challenges while maintaining the highest level of critical emergency response service.

GHH:BGR

cc: Arif Alikhan, Deputy Mayor  
Douglas Barry, Fire Chief