



UNITED FIREFIGHTERS of LOS ANGELES CITY

Local 112 IAFF AFL-CIO-CLC

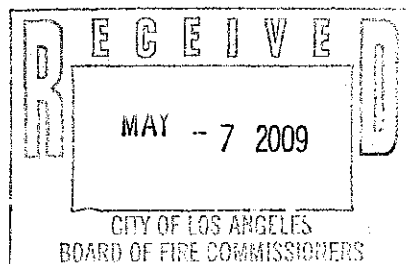
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April 29, 2009

Genethia Hudley-Hayes, President
City of Los Angeles
Board of Fire Commissioners
City Hall East 1800
Los Angeles, CA 90012



Madam President,

I was in attendance at the last Fire Commission meeting at the request of President McOsker. One of the Agenda items was a report regarding the LAPD audit on the Arson Section. In the audience that day was about a dozen of our arson investigators. They were very concerned about the results of this audit.

One of their biggest concerns was that they were never given an opportunity to provide their input to the auditors. I know one of the auditors told the Commission that Supervisors and Investigators were interviewed, but that statement was not correct. In fact, not one of the Investigators in attendance that day had been interviewed. I am concerned about any audit results that are determined without the input of the people who actually do the work on a daily basis. I'm sure you would agree that their input in both identifying the problems and the solutions would be invaluable.

Another concern that wasn't addressed in the audit and is of a serious nature is the current working environment at the arson section. Multiple complaints have been filed with the Department regarding the management and supervision of this unit. These issues continue to go on unaddressed.

The members of the Arson Section would like to meet with the Fire Commission and the Fire Chief to address their concerns. This was done very effectively in the late 90's when the Fire Commission held hearings to discuss Paramedic issues. Every Paramedic who wanted to testify in front of the Commission was allowed to do so, and it was an incredible eye opener for both the Commission and the Chief. As a result, the first EMS five year plan was developed with much success. I believe that both the Fire Commission and the Fire Chief could learn a great deal about the issues affecting the Arson Section by speaking to its members directly. By allowing these members to speak freely and without the fear of reprisal, I believe these problems can be resolved.



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If I can help facilitate this meeting in any way, please do not hesitate to ask. I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,



David Pimentle, Secretary
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