

LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT



RALPH M. TERRAZAS
FIRE CHIEF

July 15, 2015

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
FILE NO. 15-073

TO: Board of Fire Commissioners

FROM: *RMT* Ralph M. Terrazas, Fire Chief

SUBJECT: TEMPORARY SERVICE OF RETIRED FIRE INSPECTORS

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 Withdrawn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 Fire Prevention and Public Safety Bureau (FPB) is addressing the backlog of inspections through a variety of possible strategies. One strategy was the rehire retired Inspectors along with the assignment of light-duty Firefighters. They would target "sweeps" of specific occupancies with utilization of variable staffing hours for Firefighters on the Inspector promotional list.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board:
Receive and file this report.

DISCUSSION

Early this year, recently retired Inspectors were contacted to see if they would be willing to be rehired to help with maintenance inspections to reduce the backlog of inspections. There was very limited interest in the call out to the retired Inspectors, and only two initially replied that they were willing to participate. Due to the possible negative financial impact (tax penalties) for those members who exited DROP if they were rehired by the Fire Department, the two reconsidered their interest.

Additionally, with the adoption of the new fire code, along with the implementation of the Fire Prevention Application (FPA) software, it was determined that reaching out to those Inspectors that retired over three years ago, would not be prudent due to the learning curve required to learn both the new fire code as well as the new inspection system. A better focus is to concentrate on the newly established Inspectors promotional list where everyone on that list has studied the new fire code to pass the Fire Inspector examination.

On July 26, 2015, the Fire Chief, with the support of the Fire Commission, promoted eight Inspector I's to fill vacancies and bring the current staffing up to 100%.

Currently, the FPB has four Inspectors on long term IOD leave which creates a negative impact on productivity. Utilizing variable staffing hours recently approved by the Fire Chief, we plan to bring seven Firefighters on the current promotional list to the FPB on a voluntary basis during their normal days off to assist with the backlog in what we are calling "Operation Catch-Up." These members will report to the Fire Marshal's office and their inspection responsibilities will be measured for the October FireStat meeting.

These seven Firefighters, correlates with the seven new Inspector positions that have been proposed to be restored from the original 17 eliminated positions and also the number of vacancies the FPB will have by February 2016. With early training on inspection procedures and system usage, once promoted, our employees will be an immediate asset to the FPB.

CONCLUSION

Unfortunately, the option for the temporary re-hiring of retired Fire Inspectors is not a viable alternative at this time. The FPB has been working on a number of strategies to address backlogged inspections. The FPB continues to pursue and implement the other approaches outlined above to meet it inspection goals.

Board report prepared by John N. Vidovich, Deputy Chief, Fire Prevention and Public Safety Bureau.