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Long Beach City College • Long Beach Community College District

4901 East Carson Street • Long Beach, California 90808

August 13, 2019

Mayor Robert Garcia and Long Beach City Council
411 W. Ocean Blvd., 11th Floor
Long Beach, CA 90802

RE: Strategies to Improve Diversity in the Long Beach Fire Department (19-0770) - SUPPORT

Dear Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council,

As a member of the Long Beach Community College Board of Trustees, I am writing to commend the Long Beach Fire Department's (LBFD) initiative to increase workforce diversity, and I celebrate the Department's strategic partnership with our local educational institutions, such as Long Beach City College (LBCC).

The LBCC Fire Science Program is well-recognized for preparing students for careers as a firefighter, first responder, inspector, emergency medical technician, and more. Our program curriculum teaches fire science fundamentals that lead to either a certificate and/or associate degree. Our high quality training equips students with the most up-to-date resources and technology and is led by real fire service professionals.

The 2019 LBFD's Recruitment Report outlines a series of strategies to increase workforce diversity, such as mentorship, marketing, and dedicated staff, to recruit candidates that are representative of the City's demographics. These efforts would greatly benefit LBCC students, as it offers students a unique opportunity to network with the local firefighting community and secure a pathway into a great profession.

I am excited to see workforce diversity elevated as a priority by the Fire Department, and I encourage the Council to support these efforts and explore expanding our partnership with LBCC.

I strongly support the establishment of a sworn Diversity Recruitment position in the Fire Department as outlined in Agenda Item #33, Council File #19-0770.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact my office at (562) 584-0219.

Sincerely,

Uduak-Joe Ntuk

Uduak-Joe Ntuk
Vice President, Board of Trustees