

Date: October 29, 2020

To: Xavier Espino, Fire Chief

From: Ray Toohey, Deputy Chief, Operations Bureau

Subject: **REPORT FOR THE MEASURE A CITIZENS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING
REGARDING IMPACT OF MEASURE A FUNDING TO THE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide information highlighting the importance of Measure A funding to the Fire Department, in terms of both restoration of apparatus as well as facility improvements.

Apparatus Restoration

Engine 8

Engine 8 was restored using Measure A funding during Fiscal Year 2017 (FY 17). Station 8 is located at 5365 E. Second Street in the Belmont Shore neighborhood in southeast Long Beach. It is a historical landmark and has the ability to house only one unit. Engine 8 was restored at the beginning of FY 17 on October 1, 2016.

During FY 20, Engine 8 responded to 1,836 calls, including:

- 1,442 Medical calls
- 252 Fire calls
- 77 Hazardous Material calls
- 65 Other types of calls (e.g., swift water rescue, wires down, public assist, etc.)

Before the return of Engine 8, these calls would have been distributed to surrounding engine or truck companies. In fact, for the one-year period prior to restoration, the following units responded into Station 8's area:

- Engine 4: 681 times
- Engine 14: 705 times
- Engine 2: 499 times

The return of Engine 8 has meant a nearly one-minute decrease in the response time into Station 8's area.

Rescue 12

Station 12 is located at 1199 Artesia Boulevard in the Hamilton neighborhood of North Long Beach. Station 12 houses Engine 12, Rescue 12, a BLS Unit, a Foam rig, a Multi Causality Incident (MCI) rig, and the Fire Department's Disaster Resource Center or DRC. This building is designed for use as a multipurpose building in the event of a major disaster to distribute food, water, medication, and other vital needs to the community. Rescue 12 was restored on March 1, 2017.

During FY 20, Rescue 12 responded to 3,852 calls, including:

- 3,727 Medical calls
- 92 Fire calls
- 3 Hazardous Material calls
- 30 Other types of calls

Before the return of Rescue 12, these calls were distributed to surrounding rescues. During the one-year period prior to restoration, Rescue 11 responded into Station 12's area 1,978 times and Rescue 9 responded 635 times. Since Rescue 12 was placed back in service, there has been a 21-second decrease in the average response time citywide for a paramedic rescue.

Engine 17

Station 17, housing Engine 17 and Truck 17, is located at 2241 Argonne Avenue in the Los Altos neighborhood of east Long Beach and shares the property with the Long Beach Fire Department Captain David Rosa Regional Training Center and Long Beach Search and Rescue Explorer Post.

Engine 17 was restored to service on October 16, 2019, and is funded by Measure A for two years, through September 30, 2021. Fire is in the process of identifying structural solutions to ensure continued operation.

For FY 20, Engine 17 responded to 3,142 calls, including:

- 2,516 Medical calls
- 444 Fire calls
- 60 Hazardous Material calls
- 122 Other types of calls

Before the return of Engine 17, these calls were handled by Truck 17 and surrounding stations. In FY 19, Truck 17 responded to 3,442 calls of all types. The next three closest companies (Engines 4, 22, and 19) responded into Station 17's area a total of 1,116 times. The return of Engine 17 to service has meant a reduction of 61 percent in surrounding companies responding into Station 17's area.

Homeless Education and Response Team

In FY 17, the first Homelessness Education and Response Team (HEART1) was placed into service via one-time Proposition H funding before being structurally funded. The second HEART (HEART2) unit was implemented in FY 19 with Measure A funding (totaling \$435,232). Each Team is comprised of two Firefighter/Paramedics, tasked with the mission of reducing the number of Fire Department responses to persons experiencing homelessness through rapid response to calls for service, collaboration with Continuum of Care partners; and, to educate Fire Department staff and members of the community regarding local resources and issues surrounding homelessness. For FY 20, both HEART units responded to a total of 1,536 incidents; 21 percent of the time (327 responses), the frontline engine and/or rescue were either

cancelled or downgraded, meeting the first priority of HEART's Mission. Furthermore, in October 2018, HEART received a three-year "Mental Health Awareness Training Grant," from the United States Department of Health and Human Services. The grant, totaling \$360,968, was awarded to HEART by way of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), making LBFD the first fire department in the nation to be recognized for its efforts to address issues surrounding homelessness and mental illness. HEART is recognized routinely by local and state groups as a leader in its field and it is common for fire departments from around the region and beyond to reach out for guidance on setting up a Team of their own. Per City Council direction, funding for HEART will be redirected to the Health and Human Services (Health) Department midway through FY 21.

Facility Improvements

The Fire Department has relied on Measure A funding for facility enhancements citywide. Examples in recent fiscal years include, workforce privacy at Stations 1 and 10, and roof repairs at Stations 2, 4, 7, and 10. Measure A funds will be instrumental in FY 21 for Stations 9 and 14.

In June 2019, the crews of both Engine and Rescue 9 were displaced to surrounding stations due to long-term substandard living conditions. On September 3, 2019, the City Council adopted the FY 20 Budget, which included appropriation of \$7,761,510 over a four-year period to help with the costs of both temporary and long-term solutions for Fire Station 9. On September 18, 2020, Engine and Rescue 9 were co-located at the former Boeing Fitness Center at 2019 E. Wardlow Road. This temporary situation will better serve the residents of Station 9's area until a location is identified, purchased, and developed as permanent housing.

In the first month of their residing at the Wardlow Road and Cherry Avenue site, Engine 9 has responded to a total of 235 calls, including:

- 188 Medical calls
- 37 Fire calls
- 4 Hazardous Material calls
- 6 Other types of calls

Rescue 9 has responded to 253 calls, including 246 Medical calls and 7 Fire calls. Response times to incidents of all types within Station 9's area have been reduced by 29 seconds. In addition to better serving the residents of Station 9's area, the temporary facility has upgraded the quality of life for the assigned firefighters. The previous cramped living conditions were causing excessive wear to that station both inside and out.

A complete remodel of Station 14, located at 5200 Eliot Street, will commence in 2021, with a focus on workforce privacy. Completed and opened in 1986, this station was built in a traditional open-style typical of the time – a large dorm without dividers and a large unisex bathroom for the crew. The building currently houses seven people but can accommodate more. The scope of work will address a lack of separate quarters for male and female firefighters, private restrooms, and updating the overall condition of the building.

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I am available to answer any questions or provide additional information, as needed. Please
contact me at (562) 570-2521.

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Measure A Citizens Oversight Committee Meeting

Engine 8

FY 2020 Responses

Unit	EMS	Fire	Hazmat	Public Assist, Etc.	Total
Engine 8	1,442	252	77	65	1,836



Rescue 12

FY 2020 Responses

Unit	EMS	Fire	Hazmat	Public Assist, Etc.	Total
Rescue 12	3,727	92	3	30	3,852



Engine 17

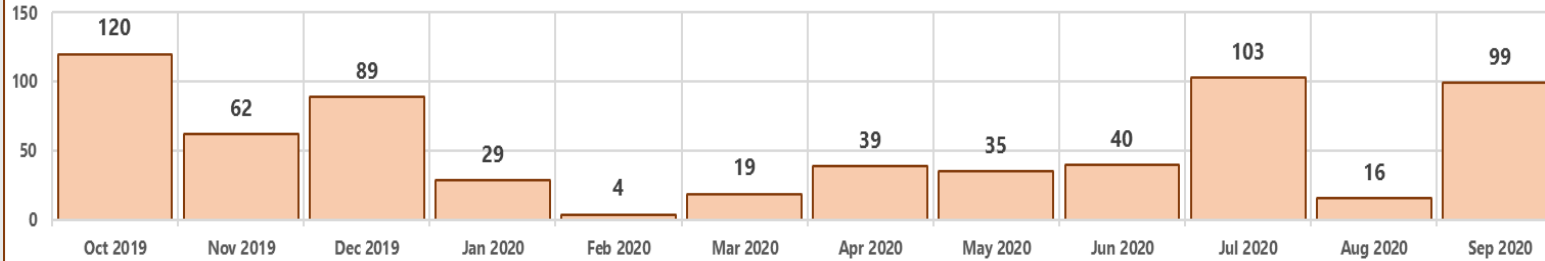
FY 2020 Responses

Unit	EMS	Fire	Hazmat	Public Assist, Etc.	Total
Engine 17	2,516	444	60	122	3,142

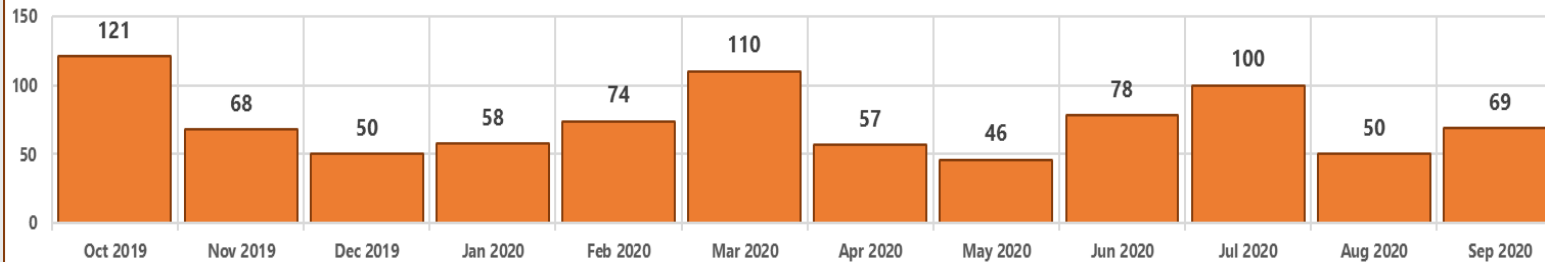


Homeless Education and Response Team

HEART1 Incidents



HEART2 Incidents



HEART	Responded Incidents	241	130	139	87	78	129	96	81	118	203	66	168	1536
	Active Days	24	16	24	18	18	19	21	19	20	22	19	19	239
Total	Incidents / Active Day	10.0	8.1	5.8	4.8	4.3	6.8	4.6	4.3	5.9	9.2	3.5	8.8	6.4



Fire Facility Enhancements

Workforce Privacy: Fire Stations 1 and 10



Roof Repairs: Fire Stations 2, 4, 7, and 10



Fire Station 9

FY 2020 Responses

Unit	EMS	Fire	Hazmat	Public Assist, Etc.	Total
Engine 9	3,673	757	72	171	4,673
Rescue 9	5,361	82	0	25	5,468
Total Station 9	9,034	839	72	196	10,141

1 Month After Relocation (09/18-10/17/2020)

Unit	EMS	Fire	Hazmat	Public Assist, Etc.	Total
Engine 9	188	37	4	6	235
Rescue 9	246	7	0	0	253
Total Station 9	434	44	4	6	488



Fire Station 14

Complete Remodel



Thank you....Questions?

