

... And Your Safety Is At Stake

The City wants to close your neighborhood fire station and remove fire engines from service. They call it “Focused Deployments.” We call it **RESPONSE TIME ROULETTE**.

Your safety is at risk!

- Tell them to keep their promises and “PROTECT CORE SERVICES”
- Tell them to SAY NO TO FIRE STATION CLOSURES
- Tell them to SAY NO TO CLOSING DOWN FIRE ENGINES
- Tell them to SAY NO TO **RESPONSE TIME ROULETTE**

Call Mayor Foster and your Council representative at the numbers below:

- | | | | |
|--|----------------|----------------------|---|
| • Mayor Foster's Office | (562) 570-6801 | • Gerrie Schipske, | 5 th District (562) 570-6932 |
| • Robert Garcia, 1 st District | (562) 570-6919 | • Dee Andrews, | 6 th District (562) 570-7135 |
| • Suja Lowenthal, 2 nd District | (562) 570-6684 | • Tonia Reyes Uranga | 7 th District (562) 570-6139 |
| • Gary DeLong, 3 rd District | (562) 570-6300 | • Rae Gabelich, | 8 th District (562) 570-6685 |
| • Patrick O'Donnel, 4 th District | (562) 570-6918 | • Val Lerch, | 9 th District (562) 570-6137 |

Don't Let Them Gamble With Your Safety



They're
Playing
A *Deadly*
Game . . .

***Because Your Safety
Matters...***

***Long Beach
Firefighters Association***



LONG BEACH FIREFIGHTERS LOCAL 372
3333 E. Spring Street, Suite 222
Long Beach, California 90806



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Dear Resident of Long Beach,

As you may know your City Officials are proposing drastic cuts in the budget for the Long Beach Fire Department. They propose reducing our current staffing level of four persons per engine and truck companies to only three persons. This will represent a reduction of available firefighters in this City by 25%!!! This will also equate to a 50% reduction in efficiency at the scene of an emergency. Any reduction in staffing levels will have an immediate adverse impact on the Fire Department's ability to meet our mission objective of saving lives and property.

Though we understand the City's Budget problem, limiting the Fire Department's ability to protect your homes, businesses and more importantly you and your loved ones, is irresponsible at best.

Please call or e-mail your City Councilperson immediately and voice your concern. Help us to be there for you. We appreciate your support.

Long Beach Firefighters



The deployment and staffing of fire department resources continues to be a topic of conversation amongst people unfamiliar with how and why the Fire Department operates the way that it does. The subject surfaces every few years and becomes a priority discussion point when budget times are lean.

The deployment and staffing of fire department resources (engine and ladder companies) is based on 2 criteria: the *speed* and the *weight* of the response to anticipated emergencies within the community that those resources serve. These concepts are, in part, based on well-researched and accepted facts:

FACT 1:

Fire growth and spread is predictable. Fire growth roughly corresponds to the percentage of property destruction. It is widely accepted that a small fire in a single room of a structure, if left unchecked, will continue to grow and that a flashover will occur in 8-10 minutes. A flashover occurs when combustible materials not directly involved in the fire are heated to their ignition temperature and collectively burst into flames. A flashover signals the death of unprotected occupants within the structure and that the fire has spread beyond the room of origin and now involves the entire structure.

When a flashover occurs the temperatures within the structure will exceed 1400 degrees. Any victim inside at the time a flashover occurs will be killed. Firefighters, with full protective equipment including a self-contained breathing apparatus, can be expected to survive flashover conditions for roughly 5 seconds before their equipment fails and they perish.

FACT 2:

A person will suffer irreversible damage to body systems if their organs are deprived of oxygen. Oxygen deprivation can occur from a heart attack or from being trapped inside of a hot, smoke filled environment. Irreversible brain damage will occur within 4-6 minutes.

The damage to heart muscle during a heart attack continues to increase until circulation is restored or until the heart is so severely damaged that death occurs.

SPEED of Response to a Structure Fire

With these facts in mind let us first study the need for the *speed* of response to a structure fire.

If we hope to save the lives of trapped or overcome occupants and prevent the spread of fire to areas outside of the room where the fire originates then fire engines need to be deployed so that they can respond, arrive, and begin to operate at a fire within a structure

before a flashover occurs and before victims suffer irreversible brain damage. To stop the fire and prevent a flashover, firefighters need to operate a fire hose and discharge water directly onto the burning material. Simply stated, they need to enter the building, find the fire and put water on it. To stop the threat of brain damage, firefighters need to enter the building, locate a victim and remove them to the outside.

If fire engines are placed so that it takes an extended time period to arrive at a structure fire they will not arrive with sufficient time to begin operations before a flashover occurs or to remove victims before irreversible brain damage occurs. Remember that once a flashover occurs occupants will perish and property damage will increase. Any extension of the *speed* of the response limits the ability of the fire department to protect lives and property.

WEIGHT of Response to a Structure Fire

Now let's look at the *weight* of the response to a structure fire.

The initial actions necessary at a structure fire are designed to remove victims before they perish and to limited or stop the spread of fire. Fire companies are staffed with those necessary actions in mind. To be successful we must supply enough firefighters to accomplish the vital initial tasks before a flashover and irreversible brain damage occurs.

These are the initial actions that the first arriving engine can be expected to perform in order to protect lives and limit property damage:

- ✓ Locate and connect to a fire hydrant to insure an uninterrupted supply of water
- ✓ Deploy a fire hose and advance it to the involved structure
- ✓ Operate the pump on the fire engine to pump the water from the hydrant to the fire hose
- ✓ Evaluate the structure, fire conditions, and rescue potential and develop a plan of attack
- ✓ Gain entry into the structure by forcing open doors or windows or placing ladders to windows or roofs
- ✓ Provide a two-person rapid intervention crew outside before entry into the hazardous area
- ✓ Enter the structure, while dragging the fire hose, locate and extinguish the fire before flashover occurs
- ✓ Search for trapped or overcome occupants and remove them from danger before irreversible injury occurs

With firefighter actions limited by defined timeframes they must be able to accomplish these task independent of additional resources. A single firefighter cannot be expected to complete all of the above activities within the known time limits for brain death and flashover. A reduction in the *weight* of the response equals a reduction in the tasks that can be performed. The Fire Chief staffs fire engines and deploys them with these tasks in mind.

SPEED of Response to a Heart Attack

Lets look at the *speed* of the response to a person suffering a heart attack.

If we hope to save the life and reduce the suffering of someone overcome by a heart attack we must intervene before irreversible damage occurs to the heart and brain. The initial treatment for someone experiencing a heart attack is to assist breathing, provide oxygen and perform CPR as needed. An Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) can perform all of these skills. All firefighters and lifeguards are certified as EMTs at the minimum.

Fire department resources must be deployed so that they can respond, arrive and begin treatment within a defined timeline (Fact 2). Engine companies serve as the “first-responder” to medical emergencies because they can arrive rapidly due to their location and begin life-sustaining care. Paramedic rescues (ambulances) are simultaneously dispatched, but arrive later because there are less of them than engine companies.

If the first arriving engine arrives after an extended timeframe the victim will have already sustained irreversible heart and brain damage and will most likely have an unfavorable outcome. An extension of the *speed* of the response limits the ability of the fire departments to protect lives.

WEIGHT of Response to a Heart Attack

Lets look at the *weight* of the response to a person having a heart attack.

Because of the limited time available to intervene the first arriving engine company must be able to perform all of the initial tasks required at the most severe life threatening emergencies, if we are to maximize lives saved.

These are examples of the initial actions that the first arriving engine can be expected to perform in order to save lives and reduce suffering:

- ✓ Perform an initial patient assessment to determine if the patient is breathing and has a pulse
- ✓ Open and maintain an airway
- ✓ Provide ventilatory assistance (assist breathing)
- ✓ Perform chest compressions (CPR)
- ✓ Measure vital signs (pulse, blood pressure, pupil reaction, etc.)
- ✓ Gather medical history from family or friends
- ✓ Identify and document medications taken by the victim
- ✓ Initiate a patient care record (legal documentation of the incident)
- ✓ Provide comfort and support to the family

With some tasks limited by defined timeframes the first-arriving engine company must be able to complete the vital actions, independent of additional resources. A reduction in the *weight* of the response equals a reduction in the tasks that can be performed. The Fire Chief staffs fire engines and deploys them with these tasks in mind.

The *speed* and the *weight* of the response are key, critical components used to determine staffing and deployment of fire department resources. They are mutually inclusive. Our customers are not served by having a rapid response time (*speed*) if we do not arrive with enough firefighters to solve your problem. In the opposite, it does our customers no good to arrive with a sufficient number of firefighters (*weight*) if it takes us an hour to arrive.

Standards that Affect Staffing and Deployment

In addition to the above there are several standards that exist that dictate the staffing and deployment of Fire Department resources.

A. NFPA 1710 “Organization and Deployment of Fire Suppression Operations, Emergency Medical Operations, and Special Operations to the Public by Career Fire Departments”. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) develops standards for use by the Fire Service. The following sections of NFPA 1710 directly address the issue of staffing:

- ✓ 5.2.2: Fire company staffing requirements shall be based on minimum levels for emergency operations for safety, effectiveness, and efficiency.
- ✓ 5.2.2.1.1: These companies (engines) shall be staffed with a minimum of four on-duty personnel.
- ✓ 5.2.2.1.2: In jurisdictions with tactical hazards, high hazard occupancies, high incident frequencies, geographical restrictions, or other pertinent factors as identified by the authority having jurisdiction, these companies (engines) shall be staffed with a minimum of **five** or **six** members. (Bold added for emphasis).

In addition, 1710 identifies the need for the first arriving company to have the capabilities to establish an initial rapid intervention crew (IRIC). Section 3.3.26 defines an IRIC as “Two members of the initial attack crew who are assigned for rapid deployment to rescue lost or trapped members”. These two members must be available outside of a structure or other hazardous area before firefighters can enter. (Also see NFPA 1500, Section 8.4.7)

B. NFPA 1500 “Standard on Fire Department Occupational Safety and Health Program”. The following sections of NFPA 1500 directly address the issue of staffing:

- ✓ 8.4.1: The fire department shall provide an adequate number of personnel to safely conduct emergency scene operations
- ✓ 8.4.7: In the initial stages of an incident where only one crew is operating in the hazardous area at a working structure fire, a minimum of **four** (bold added for emphasis) individuals shall be required, consisting of two individuals working as a crew in the hazard area and two individuals present outside this hazard area available for assistance or rescue at emergency operations where entry into the danger area is required.

The Fire Chief also considers these standards when determining the staffing and deployment of fire department resources.

The *speed* and *weight* of the response determines whether we will be successful in fulfilling our mission to protect lives and property. Meeting the requirements of established standards determines how our actions will be evaluated when called into question.

Finally, the Fire Chief must consider the effects on firefighters when staffing levels are reduced beyond an established point. A study conducted by the Seattle Fire Department in 1981 identified a link between staffing and firefighter injuries. The analysis indicated that the rate of firefighter injuries expressed as total hours of disability per hours of fire ground exposure were 54% greater for engine companies staffed with three personnel when compared to those staffed with four personnel. Simply put, they concluded that the average time per disability increased as company strength decreased.

In 1991 an analysis of firefighter injuries and minimum staffing per apparatus was conducted utilizing data from cities with populations of 150,000 or more. The results of the study found that jurisdictions having crew sizes of fewer than four firefighters suffered an injury rate at nearly twice the percentage rate of jurisdictions that maintained crew sizes of four or more firefighters.

In 1990 the Nevada Department of Occupational Safety and Health (NDOSH) issued a complaint that the Clark County Fire Department willfully violated the industry standard for firefighter safety when they staffed units with three personnel. The stipulation entered into by NDOSH and the Fire Department stated that:

“Any engine or ladder truck manned with less than four persons shall be defined to be **“unsafely manned.”**”

In conclusion, the Fire Chief is tasked with protecting lives and property. The staffing and deployment of Fire Department resources is based on that mission. The Fire Chief relies on documented and proven science of fire behavior and emergency medicine to establish the basic resource requirements for effective fire department staffing and deployment.

The Deployment and Staffing of Fire Department Resources

FAQs

Having 4 firefighters on a fire engine that is really busy makes sense, but why can't the slower units respond with less firefighters?

- ★ The staffing of engine companies is based on the anticipated actions that firefighters must take at a structure fire or other emergency and the time constraints that apply. The fire doesn't know that the engine company that is responding has less firefighters. The fire acts the same regardless of the number of firefighters on the engine company. The engine company needs the same number of firefighters even if it only responds to one structure fire a month.

How many fires does the Fire Department actually go to every year?

- ★ Dispatched on over 5000 fire calls per year.

Why does the Fire Department send an engine company on medical aid responses?

- ★ One of our criteria for deployment is the speed of the response. There are 24 fire stations, but only 8 paramedic rescues. In a medical emergency, where time is of the essence, we send the closest engine or truck company to act as a "first responder". They arrive quicker than the paramedic rescue because there are more of them. Once they arrive they begin life-sustaining treatment. Also, in the most serious life-threatening emergencies (cardiac arrest, multi-victim incidents, severe difficulty breathing, etc.) all of the firefighters are needed to assist the paramedics with treatment of the patient. Firefighters from the engine company routinely are used to perform CPR, assist ventilations, transferring the patient to the gurney, and even to drive the rescue to the hospital. On non-life-threatening emergencies the engine company can cancel the rescue and request a Basic Life Support (BLS) ambulance. This leaves the paramedics available for the life-threatening emergencies.

Does it really make that much difference if the first fire engine arrives 1-2 minutes later?

- ★ Yes. Once flashover has occurred all occupants inside the structure have perished. Intervening before that occurs is the only way to potentially save lives. We must have firefighters inside applying water to the fire and removing victims before a flashover occurs, it is unlikely we can save victims afterwards. Even if no victims are present, arriving 1-2 minutes later means the difference between

confining the fire to the room where it started or the fire destroying the entire house.

The same philosophy holds true for a severe medical emergency. No amount of treatment can help once irreversible brain damage has occurred.

What are the legal implications of not following the NFPA standards?

- ★ While the answer to this one is best left to attorneys it seems reasonable to believe that during litigation, the NFPA standard could be used to determine the “industry standard” for fire protection and safety measures. NFPA 1710 could be found to be highly relevant to the question of whether the fire department has negligently failed to provide adequate fire or emergency protection to an individual harmed in a fire or medical emergency.

Couldn't firefighters still enter a burning structure to save a life even if there were only three firefighters on the engine?

- ★ Yes. NFPA 1500 allows for that possibility. However, the firefighters can only enter if there is a **known, imminent** life-threatening situation. There must be evidence that a person is inside and threatened, not just a possibility. In addition, the three firefighters are taking an extreme risk making entry. If a flashover or structural collapse was to occur or a firefighter were injured there would be no one immediately available to rescue the firefighters or the victim. Without backup we place everyone at greater risk.

LONG BEACH FIRE FIGHTERS

Richard Brandt, President, Long Beach Firefighters
Office (562)900-2784

Date: Tuesday May 12, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Subject: Firefighters Voluntarily Give Back Pay

In the wake of the current economic crisis, the City of Long Beach has elected to furlough City employees in an effort to cut costs. At the last Council meeting elected officials determined that Public Safety would be exempt from this policy and requested Firefighters and Police Officers to find alternative cost savings.

“The men and women of the Long Beach Firefighters Association feel strongly that all City employees should assist Long Beach in this time of need, and in an effort to minimize impacts to the levels of service we provide, our Firefighters have decided to voluntarily give back to the City”, said Rich Brandt, President of the Long Beach Firefighters Association.

Although not mandated by the City Council, the men and women of the Long Beach firefighters have decided to voluntarily return 1.9% of their compensation package in an effort to further ease the deficit City Hall currently faces. This giveback is equal to what other City employees are being forced to contribute in the form of furloughs. “An overwhelming majority of Long Beach Firefighters stated this was the right thing to do, given the current economy. As a result of the giveback, service levels for the residents and businesses in Long Beach will remain unaffected in 2009”, said Brandt.

As the budget is prepared for 2010, the Firefighters’ Association will continue to work closely with Elected Officials and City Mangement to ensure that the Fire Department does not suffer further cuts that would endanger our ability to respond to the needs of our community. The Firefighters’ Association is committed to open and transparent dialogue in an effort to minimize costs without disrupting the levels of service we provide for the citizens of the City of Long Beach.

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For Immediate Release
July 30, 2009

Contact
Bill Glanz, IAFF, 202 824-1566

IAFF–Metro Fire Chiefs Joint Statement

Despite Financial Crisis, Safety of Fire Fighters and the Public Must Remain Top Priority

Washington, DC – The International Association of Fire Fighters and the Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association today issued a joint statement regarding the safety of fire fighters, paramedics and the public during the ongoing economic crisis.

The statement acknowledges the severe economic crisis facing many municipalities, but calls on jurisdictions to consider safety first when making budgetary decisions concerning their fire departments.

“Too many times, tough decisions about fire department resources are being made without consideration for the safety and well-being of our members or the public, and this must be pointed out and challenged,” said IAFF General President Harold Schaitberger. “We hope this message reaches the entire fire service and goes up the chain of command to decision-makers in every jurisdiction because this is truly a life safety issue during this economic crisis.”

“During economic times like these, requests for response to all types of emergencies increase, so a decrease in staffing while that call volume increases has a compounding negative effect on the safety of fire fighters and the public at large,” said Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association President and Miami, Florida Fire Chief Shorty Bryson.

The joint statement reads in part:

“We acknowledge the current economic reality. The value of the assets used to generate local government revenue has plummeted. Local governments across North America are contemplating or proposing decreases in size and/or reductions in the span and depth of their services. The fire service is often caught up in that contraction. We must weather this storm by having a realistic strategy grounded in the safety and security of fire fighters, paramedics and the public at large.

“We must keep all-hazard emergency response personnel as safe as possible. A fire company should be able to function as an independent unit at the scene of a fire in order to permit the Incident Commander to employ the proper tactics and strategies to safeguard the occupants of the building, as well as the operating force, and to protect the property of the public. Whenever understaffing necessitates the combination of two companies to accomplish a specific task at the scene of a fire -- which normally could be completed by one effective unit -- the standard operating procedures are dramatically and adversely affected.

(more)

“Adequate staffing is imperative at the individual fire company level. In order to permit the effective operation of fire companies at the scene of a structure fire, the minimum number of personnel on both engine and ladder companies must be four members per unit for low hazard environments and five or six members per unit for medium and high hazard (high risk) environments.

“All resource decisions must be viewed in light of these fundamental requirements. Accordingly, if a decision is made to reduce departmental resources, it must never be accomplished by reducing company crew size on apparatus.”

The full statement can be viewed at www.iaff.org/09News/PDFs/JointStatement.pdf

The International Association of Fire Fighters, headquartered in Washington, DC, is the leading advocate in North America for the safety and training of fire fighters and paramedics. The IAFF represents more than 295,000 full-time professional fire fighters and paramedics who protect communities in every state in the United States and throughout Canada. More information is available at www.iaff.org

The Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association is a section of the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), based in Vienna, VA, and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), based in Quincy, MA. Metro Chiefs brings together fire chiefs from large metropolitan fire departments to share information and focus on major issues effecting policy changes in the U.S. and abroad. Its members belong to the IAFC and NFPA and are the fire chiefs of jurisdictions with minimum staffing of 400 fully paid career firefighters. More information is available at www.nfpa.org/metro

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June 2009

Joint Position Statement of the Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association and the International Association of Fire Fighters Regarding the Economic Crisis

We acknowledge the current economic reality- The value of the assets used to generate local government revenue has plummeted. Local governments across North America are contemplating or proposing decreases in size and/or reductions in the span and depth of their services. The Fire Service is often caught up in that contraction. We must weather this storm by having a realistic strategy grounded in the safety and security of firefighters, paramedics and the public at large.

We must be prepared for the long haul- Where the economic crisis is concerned, we have several more budget cycles during which we may be dealing with the effects of this recession. It took years of bad decisions at the federal level to get here and it will likely take years to get out. Many of the most fundamental elements of our economy have been dangerously weakened including employment rates, home ownership, property tax revenue, and federal/state aid to local government in spite of the federal stimulus package.

We must keep 'all hazard' emergency response personnel as safe as possible- A fire company should be able to function as an independent unit at the scene of a fire in order to permit the Incident Commander to employ the proper tactics and strategies to safeguard the occupants of the building, as well as the operating force and to protect the property of the public. Whenever understaffing necessitates the combination of two companies to accomplish a specific task at the scene of a fire, which normally could be completed by one effective unit, the standard operating procedures are dramatically and adversely affected.

Adequate staffing is imperative at the individual fire company level. In order to permit the effective operation of fire companies at the scene of a structure fire, the minimum number of personnel on both engine and ladder companies must be 4 members per unit for low hazard environments and 5 or 6 members per unit for medium and high hazard (high risk) environments.

We must assure that any operational adjustments made, ensure the safety and well-being of firefighters, paramedics and the public - As labor and management leaders, our core mission is to ensure safe, efficient and effective operations for firefighters responding to aid a public call for help. All resource decisions must be viewed in light of these fundamental requirements. Accordingly, if a decision is made to reduce departmental resources, it must never be accomplished by reducing company crew size on apparatus.



We must be relevant- Fire and Rescue Departments positioned to provide the widest range of life safety services, especially integrated fire and emergency medical response, are likely to enjoy the highest level of resource security during the toughest of times. We must acknowledge and promote our 'all hazards' nature.

We must learn and grow- Out of this experience will emerge a fire service with leaders at every level that are smarter and wiser. We should take this opportunity to learn as much as we can because the future is full of challenges. We must share these valuable lessons with new leaders.

Council faces hard choices over fire, police cuts

By Paul Eakins, Staff Writer

Posted: 08/10/2009 06:35:11 PM PDT

LONG BEACH - Proposals to close an East Long Beach fire station during the day, reduce fire crews elsewhere in the city and possibly lay off police officers will face likely heated deliberations this afternoon at City Hall.

The City Council will have a budget workshop at 3 p.m. to discuss and hear from the public on the proposed Police and Fire departments' budgets for the 2010 fiscal year, which begins Oct. 1.

To help eliminate a \$38.3 million general fund budget deficit, the Police Department's budget is to be cut by \$8.2 million (4.5 percent), and the Fire Department's budget would lose \$3.2 million (4.4 percent).

City Manager Pat West contends cuts to public safety, which West and most other city officials say is the most essential city service, are unavoidable. Together, the

two public safety departments make up more than 60 percent of Long Beach's general fund.

One of the key budget proposals is for Fire Station 1, located downtown on Magnolia Avenue, and Fire Station 18, located on Palo Verde Avenue in East Long Beach, to share a fire engine and crew. The engine would serve Station 1 during the day and Station 18 at night.

Station 1 also has a second engine, a ladder truck and an ambulance, but Station 18 would be forced to close during the day. This is the largest cut to the department's budget, amounting to \$1.6 million in savings.

Another measure would reduce two fire crews at Station 14 in the 3rd District near Appian Way to a single, five-man crew to cut \$1.2 million. Those firefighters will operate an engine and a ladder truck as a "light force" crew, responding to calls as a single unit with both vehicles.

On the police side, many youth-oriented police operations will be reduced or eliminated, and up to 38 police officers could be laid off when their desk jobs are replaced by cheaper civilian workers.

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Some council members have expressed concern about or outright opposition to the public safety cuts, particularly Councilwoman Gerrie Schipske, whose 5th District contains Fire Station 18.

Fire officials say that if they are to cut the requested amount from their budget, they really don't have any other recommendations.

"The cuts that we've proposed, we believe that they're manageable," said Acting Fire Chief Alan Patalano, who has been sharing the position with the two other deputy chiefs while Fire Chief Dave Ellis is out on medical leave. "We've offered the best level of fire protection that we believe is possible within the budget that we're given."

According to Fire Department records obtained by the Press-Telegram, Station 1 had the highest volume of incidents in the 2008 fiscal year, though it also is one of the stations with the greatest number of vehicles. The station responded to 7,262 calls, records show.

Station 18's single engine crew responded to 1,550 incidents during that same year, records show.

Patalano said that the other fire crews at Station 1 and at neighboring stations will pick up the slack, and that Station 18's geographic area can be covered from two adjacent stations with a four-minute response time.

However, Rich Brandt, president of the Long Beach Firefighters Association, called the fire engine cutbacks "response time roulette."

He said the entire fire protection system is designed to work in sync, with fire crews supporting each other. Not only does shutting down the East Long Beach station for part of the day pose a risk, but also losing firefighters downtown will slow response time and affect service, Brandt said.

"Because of the density down there and because of the high-rise (fire) potential, one of the biggest reasons we have two engines down there is our ability to get to an upper floor in a reasonable amount of time," Brandt said.

He said the council does have one option to avoid fire and even police cutbacks - dip into Long Beach's \$9 million budget stabilization fund.

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City officials created the fund last year and began putting one-time revenues into it when they saw the writing on the wall as the economy plummeted.

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Long Beach Fire Department Staffing

As a firefighter, I would like to begin by stating that I currently live in Huntington Beach, a City that I am very proud to say employs **Four-Person Engine and Truck Companies**. I am also very pleased with the fact that **Each** of these Huntington Beach Fire Department Engine Companies is staffed with **Two Firefighter/Paramedics**. This level of service is **Invaluable** in time of need and **Worth Every Penny That My Tax Dollars Spend On It**.

As far as the fire department staffing in Long Beach is concerned, I would like to first point out that there is no such thing as a **Routine Emergency Call**. Firefighters, particularly in a city as large and diverse as Long Beach never know what situation they will be faced with on a day-to-day basis. Furthermore, if City Management continues to investigate the staffing levels of the Long Beach Fire Department, they will realize: 1) that the **Blanket of Coverage** created by the **Proximity of Our Fire Stations** is **Fundamental** to the Safety of this City and its residents and 2) that **Four Firefighters Working on the Engine and Truck Companies** is of paramount importance for structural fire suppression and emergency medical response.

The question of why four firefighters are necessary on a fire engine is quite common among the public sector. The answer to this question is that **We, as Firefighters**, are responsible for the safety of the community that we serve. It is **Our Job** to ensure that when a person dials 911; we are out of the station and at their front door within five minutes, and that we are prepared to effectively and efficiently resolve **Every Potential Emergency Situation That We May Encounter**. These emergencies include, but are not limited to, structure fires, car accidents, gunshot wounds, stabbings, assaults, vehicle fires, medical emergencies (i.e. cardiac arrest, respiratory arrest, chest pain, shortness of breath, stroke, seizures, diabetic problems, etc.) These emergency responses **Require** the cohesive action of **ALL Four members of the Engine and Truck Companies** to be effectively mitigated within a timely manner.

How quickly we forget incidents such as The Paradise Gardens Fire (2 deceased), The Galaxy Towers Fires (1 deceased), The Ackerfield Fire (2 deceased), The Martin Luther King Jr. Fire (3 children deceased), and The 710 Freeway vehicle pile-up. Who knows how much worse

these events **Might Have Been** had the LBFD responded with **Three-Person Engine and Truck Companies instead of Four-Person Rigs** Or had the **Surrounding Fire Stations** in the area adjacent to these emergencies been **Closed Due to Budget Cuts**.

Granted, emergencies of this magnitude do not occur in this City on an everyday basis. **Individual and Family Emergencies**, however, **Do Occur Every Single Day** in Long Beach. This fact is witnessed by the over **48,000 Emergency Responses** that the LBFD received last year alone. Furthermore, **The Potential For Larger Catastrophic Emergencies**, such as those listed previously, is **Always There**. It is this **Potential** that firefighters train for on a daily basis, and it is this **Potential** that **Every Firefighter** in the City of Long Beach is willing to **Risk Their Lives To Mitigate**.

When this **Potential** turns into **Reality**, it is because of the Long Beach Fire Department's **Staffing Levels** (i.e. Four-Person Engine and Truck Companies) as well as the **Close Proximity of Fire Stations**, which creates a **Blanket Protection Throughout The City**, that we are able to respond to and effectively serve all of Long Beach and its residents.

The **Mission Statement** of the Long Beach Fire Department is "**To Protect Lives, Property and the Environment, Improving the Quality of Life and Safety of the Community**". By closing even a **Single Fire Station** or Reducing the Staffing on our Engine and Truck Companies by Even **One Position** you will inhibit our ability to carry out our mission statement, and you will **Jeopardize the Lives and Property of the Citizens of this City**.

Matthew Bolen
Firefighter/Paramedic
Fire Station 13
Cell: (714) 642-9646
Work: (562) 570-1213

FOUR-PERSON STAFFING POINTS

Who says we need 4+ firefighters per engine?

National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) – NFPA 1710 voluntary national standard, backed by fire chiefs and firefighters, calls for four-person staffing on engines (5-6 in high-hazard areas) and a goal of 5-minute response 90% of the time.

International City Managers Association (ICMA) – In report “Managing Fire Services,” ICMA recommends 5 per engine for municipal fire administration.

International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) – IAFC's Metro Fire Chiefs' minimum staffing position reads: “In order to permit the effective operation of fire companies at the scene of a structure fire, the minimum number of personnel on both engines and ladder companies should be 5 members per unit”.

ISO – Insurance-industry risk assessment organization calls for six-person response on initial attack (four firefighters plus two medics)

American Heart Association – Policy calls for a minimum of four responders to administer proper Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS).

CAL FIRE - During fire season, all CAL FIRE engines are staffed with four firefighters per engine.

California Office of Emergency Services - Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement mandates minimum four-person staffing on all mutual aid responses (such as for wildfires, floods, earthquake, etc.).

What would three-person staffing mean?

Slower response: Firefighters would have to wait for second unit before entering burning building, to comply with federal two-in, two-out safety standard.

Less effective response: International City Managers Association (ICMA) reports response from four-person crews nearly twice as effective as three-person crews. (5-person crews: 100% effective, four-person crews 68% effective, three-person crews 38% effective).

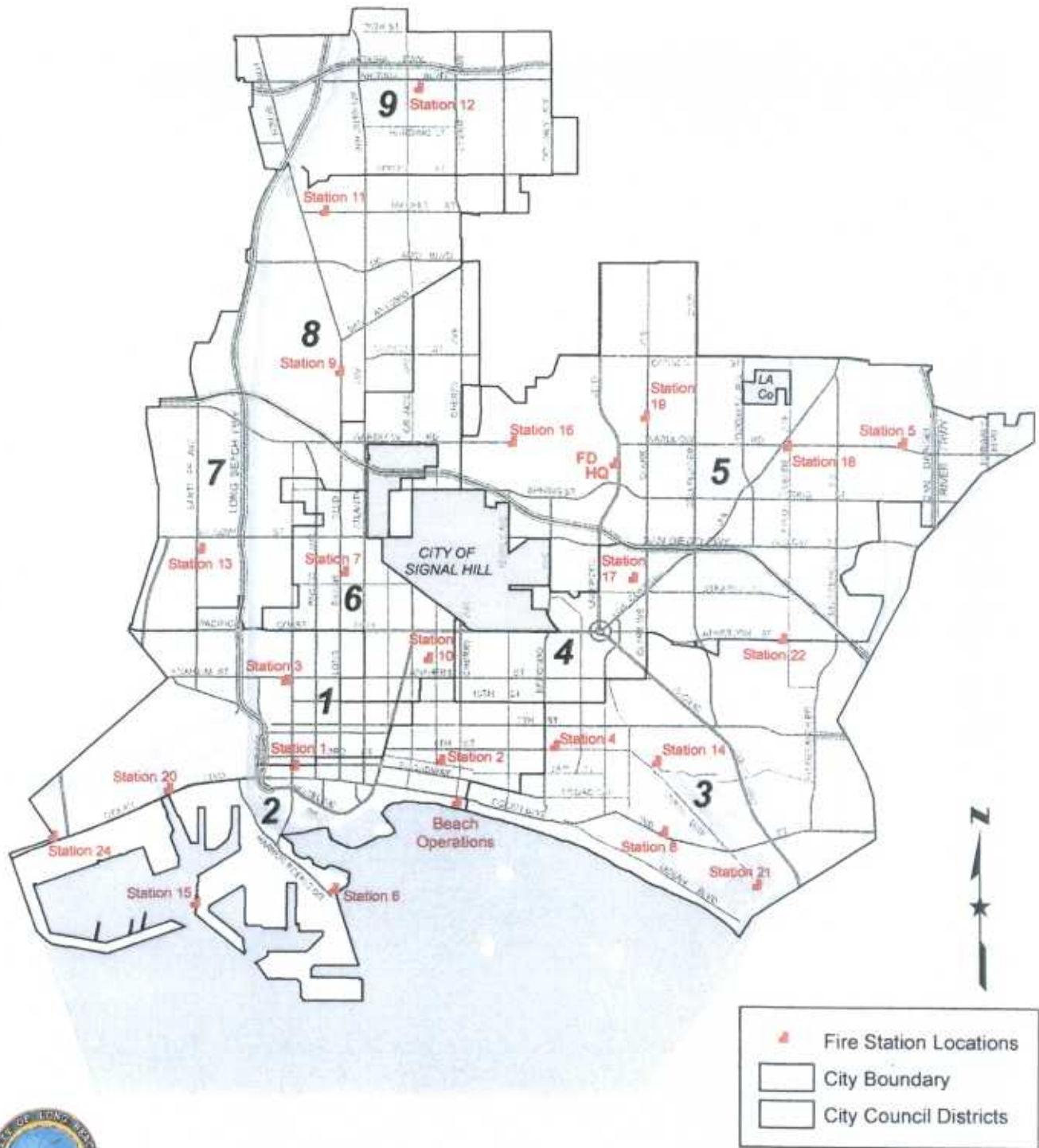
Greater risk of injury and death: With three-person crews, captain becomes line firefighter, meaning they can't assess risk and direct response where needed. This increases fatality risk to victims and firefighters.

Higher Workers Compensation costs: Studies in major cities, including Seattle, Dallas, Columbus Ohio and Providence Rhode Island show up to 54% more firefighter injuries with three-person crews vs. four-person crews.

More property damage: Slower, less effective response leads to higher level of property loss per incident.

Higher insurance rates: Staffing levels are critical component of ISO rating for local fire agencies. Reduced response per engine could result in re-classification, meaning higher insurance rates.

CITY OF LONG BEACH FIRE STATION MAP



Department of Technology Services - GIS

Revised 2/14/2008

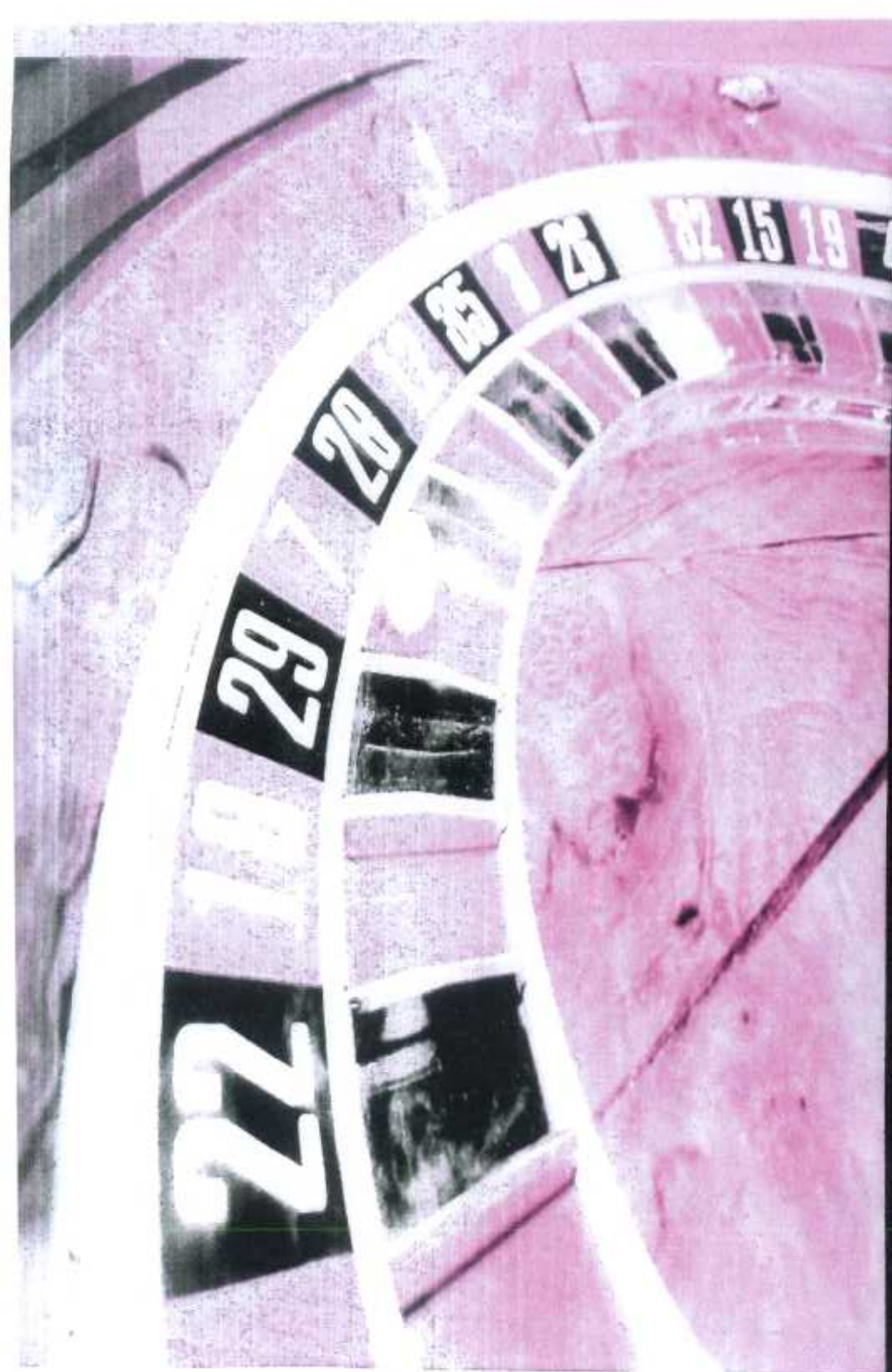
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LONG BEACH FIRE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENT RESPONSES (1) BY CALL TYPE CATEGORY (2) AND STATION

Station	FIRE (3)			MEDICAL			EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE (4)			HAZARDOUS MATERIALS			AIRCRAFT EMERGENCY (5)			FY TOTAL	FY TOTAL	FY TOTAL
	FY 07	FY 08	FY 09	FY 07	FY 08	FY 09	FY 07	FY 08	FY 09	FY 07	FY 08	FY 09	FY 07	FY 08	FY 09	FY 07	FY 08	FY 09 (6)
Station 1	960	943	622	5,865	5,934	4,261	334	316	200	57	68	47	2	1	1	7,218	7,262	5,131
Station 2	561	502	301	5,184	5,249	3,864	178	177	118	46	62	36	1	1	1	5,970	5,991	4,320
Station 3	603	603	390	3,288	3,360	2,529	159	153	98	56	70	43	0	0	1	4,106	4,186	3,061
Station 4	376	348	269	2,299	2,321	1,772	140	146	89	63	53	27	0	0	0	2,878	2,868	2,157
Station 5	118	122	92	496	545	378	41	36	23	14	8	5	0	0	1	669	711	499
Station 6	119	117	71	321	301	200	32	37	20	13	13	10	11	18	17	496	486	318
Station 7	765	659	469	3,384	3,334	2,600	169	189	129	51	50	31	10	14	16	4,379	4,246	3,245
Station 8	209	190	166	1,007	1,024	689	122	108	80	39	42	19	0	0	0	1,377	1,364	954
Station 9	596	594	452	4,122	4,122	3,127	224	178	207	54	43	33	16	20	17	5,012	4,957	3,836
Station 10	640	550	342	5,955	6,187	4,592	162	157	103	64	55	33	7	9	9	6,828	6,958	5,079
Station 11	626	591	458	4,964	4,929	3,734	219	208	149	70	73	49	2	4	4	5,881	5,805	4,394
Station 12	500	472	396	3,213	3,166	2,422	142	114	103	42	59	33	0	1	0	3,897	3,812	2,954
Station 13	458	412	271	4,544	4,663	3,433	92	103	73	32	44	28	1	0	3	5,127	5,222	3,808
Station 14	279	318	231	3,678	3,549	2,762	107	125	97	27	29	12	1	3	0	4,092	4,024	3,102
Station 15	33	21	21	30	23	10	17	27	34	3	4	3	1	1	1	84	76	69
Station 16	4	9	1	185	176	129	192	173	116	6	5	1	24	24	22	411	387	269
Station 17	540	432	316	2,126	3,738	3,073	172	209	135	43	28	14	21	20	17	2,902	4,427	3,555
Station 18	237	233	166	1,229	1,200	923	111	101	72	31	11	15	3	5	6	1,611	1,550	1,182
Station 19	340	357	245	3,244	1,821	1,029	305	267	152	24	28	21	22	23	19	3,935	2,496	1,466
Station 20	65	45	32	81	67	39	12	29	26	8	11	6	1	1	1	167	153	104
Station 21	107	95	88	552	540	410	346	496	224	28	48	21	1	1	1	1,034	1,180	744
Station 22	211	218	140	1,163	1,225	923	89	72	66	22	18	9	1	0	1	1,486	1,533	1,139
Station 24	18	36	24	106	131	92	9	15	14	17	21	20	2	0	3	152	203	153
TOTAL	8,365	7,867	5,563	57,036	57,605	42,991	3,374	3,436	2,328	810	843	516	127	146	141	69,712	69,897	51,539

- Notes: 1) Responses represent the number of calls where station unit(s) were dispatched during the indicated Fiscal Year to all geographic areas, either as part of the initial incident dispatch or as an additional, replacement, or backup unit dispatched. If multiple station units are dispatched to the same incident it is represented as one station response. If multiple apparatus from numerous stations respond to the same incident it is counted as one response for each represented station. Informational and administrative calls are excluded.
- 2) Call Type category represents the type of call as initially assigned and dispatched.
- 3) Fire call type category represents fire alarms, structure, and non-structure fire calls.
- 4) Emergency Assistance call type category represents emergency service calls such as vessel assist, C17 aircraft take off/landing, unknown odor, bee swarm, shut off water/gas, stuck elevator, lock in, assist Police Department, flooding, bomb stand-by, wires down, etc.
- 5) Aircraft Emergency call type category represents aircraft emergency calls involving aircraft alerts and crashes.
- 6) All data for FY 09 is for the period October 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009.



They're
Playing
A *Deadly*
Game . . .

... And Your Safety Is At Stake

The City wants to close your neighborhood fire station and remove fire engines from service. They call it "Focused Deployments." We call it *RESPONSE TIME ROULETTE*.

Your safety is at risk!

- Tell them to keep their promises and "PROTECT CORE SERVICES"
- Tell them to SAY NO TO FIRE STATION CLOSURES
- Tell them to SAY NO TO CLOSING DOWN FIRE ENGINES
- Tell them to SAY NO TO *RESPONSE TIME ROULETTE*

Call Mayor Foster and your Council representative at the numbers below:

- | | | | |
|--|----------------|----------------------|---|
| • Mayor Foster's Office | (562) 570-6801 | • Gerrie Schipske, | 5 th District (562) 570-6932 |
| • Robert Garcia, 1 st District | (562) 570-6919 | • Dee Andrews, | 6 th District (562) 570-7135 |
| • Suja Lowenthal, 2 nd District | (562) 570-6684 | • Tonia Reyes Uranga | 7 th District (562) 570-6139 |
| • Gary DeLong, 3 rd District | (562) 570-6300 | • Rae Gabelich, | 8 th District (562) 570-6685 |
| • Patrick O'Donnel, 4 th District | (562) 570-6918 | • Val Lerch, | 9 th District (562) 570-6137 |

Don't Let Them Gamble With Your Safety

REBUTTAL TO THE JULY 14, 2009 BUDGET HEARING

Slide 4 – Under Making Tough Decisions

1 - 527 positions (non-sworn) have been eliminated -
No mention of Sworn positions -

- **FD Fact** = 24 Sworn Positions have been eliminated.
- **FY04 – Eliminated 20 Sworn Positions**
- **FY05 – Eliminated 3 Sworn Positions**
- **FY06 – Added 1 Sworn Position**
- **FY07 – Eliminated 1 Sworn Position**
- **FY09 – Eliminated 1 Sworn Position**

2 - During this time, public safety services were determined to be essential, above other City services

- **FD Fact#1** = Fire Sworn positions have been cut and in affect support staff has been reduced to bare bones.
- **Fact #2** = Public Safety is the FIRST Responsibility of Local Government (California Constitution Article 13 Section 35).

Slide 6 – Investing in Public Safety

1 - We were able to grow our Fire Department by 14% -

- **FD Fact #1**= This increase was mainly due to the Implementation of the BLS Program which added 26 civilian Ambulance Operators, 1 Asst. Analyst and one Sworn BC – This program pays for itself and actually makes additional money for the general fund.
- **FD Fact#2** = The re-implementation of Truck 14(+12 Sworn FTE) which is paid from Prop H funds – NO general fund impact.

Slide 7 – Making Tough Decisions

1 - While we were able to protect and even grow public safety for the past six years, this is no longer possible

- **Fact** = Complete smoke and mirrors – the fact of the matter is that the FD has taken hits to sworn positions for years(24), gone without pay raises before this last contract(way below median) & your Firefighters have always been willing to help find a solution(the current FY09 give back of 2% or \$750,000 dollars) – it is very disingenuous to tell half truths – all we ask is for a fair assessment of the factual truth.

Slide 11 - Second Prong:
6% Target for Department Cuts

Sworn cannot be exempt from department budget reductions given the past six years of belt-tightening -

- **Fact** - This statement makes the reader believe that the FD hasn't contributed to the solution. This is a complete disingenuous statement. As the above facts stated, we have contributed and will continue to do our part to help. We are currently at 1970 levels of manpower on the streets of Long Beach. Remember - 5000 calls for service in 1970 and 50,000+ calls for service in 2008 with the same manpower.
- **The real point is** - That the Mayor and City Council need to know that the 6% cuts that are proposed in the upcoming budget will **Close Fire Companies** and **drastically reduce services** to the citizens. These cuts could, in-fact, put the lives of both your Firefighters and the Citizens, at Risk.

Much, Much, More To Follow!!! Thank You!!