

CORRESPONDENCE

May 10, 2019

Office of the Mayor and City Council
City of Pasadena
Pasadena City Hall
100 North Garfield Ave.
Pasadena, CA 91101

Dear Mayor Tornek and Councilmembers,

On behalf of the members of Pasadena Firefighters Association, Local 809 (PFFA), I am writing regarding the upcoming 2019-2020 fiscal year budget. As first responders, we appreciate the ongoing commitment from the residents of Pasadena to support public safety by voting to support Measures I and J, which recommend budget allocations to support public safety.

We strongly support investing in the fire department's ongoing needs for improved infrastructure including replacing older fire apparatus, upgrading fire facilities and continuing to support proper staffing of existing deployments. We are optimistic about the City's effort to include funding to replace old 9-1-1 communications requirement, renovate fire stations and to increase training opportunities for Fire fighters. These are all heading in the right direction and we appreciate the response to the voter mandates.

Local 809 has additional considerations for the City as you deliberate this year's budget that reflect the day-to-day realities faced by fire fighters who are on the front lines. While we appreciate the insights provided by the department, we feel that additional expenditures should be made to remedy ongoing issues faced by our members:

Fund and staff additional Rescue Ambulance(s) to prepare for and help with the growing population and development in the city.

- Two (2) Peak Time Rescue Ambulances are recommended in FACETS study
- Potentially improves cost recovery into general fund from EMS billing. These funds are currently being lost to other agencies when they respond into Pasadena.
- Would improve ability for RAs to go Out of Service for training, thus improving the service to the citizens and investing in Pasadena City Employees.

Fund 3 Staff assistants for the on-duty BC

- *FACETS study recommends a second BC – this is a lower cost alternative and supports the on-duty BC. Also, second BC is not logistically feasible at this time due to the need for a station, vehicle, and immediate promotions would be required.*
- *FACETS study recommends a dedicated person to aid in staffing special events. The Staff Assistant would handle staffing as the BC's designee and would be available to plan and staff special events throughout the year.*
- *This position would allow for development of Captains to serve in the Battalion Chief's position.*

Fund additional personnel assigned to the Training Division.

- In the past 5 years, approximately one-third of the department's members have turned over. Despite the high level of inexperience, no FTEs or additional resources have been dedicated to the Training Division. The Training Captain is highly overworked.
- Additional FTEs (Captains, Engineers, and/or Firefighters) would allow for more capability of the training division – potential cost savings and revenue source by administering State Fire Training classes in house.
- Having FTEs available from the Training Division would allow for more consistent and thorough Recruit Academies
- Having additional FTEs in the Training Division would allow for more flexibility in staffing special events and in filling single resource and Strike Team requests from OES – more potential to capture revenue from statewide mutual aid

Fund the replacement cycle for our frontline/reserve vehicles to match NFPA Standards.

- Many of our reserve apparatus have surpassed or will soon surpass the 25-year retirement recommendation set forth by NFPA 1901.
- The lack of serviceable and ready reserve apparatus decreases the ability to fill Strike Team requests. It also decreases Pasadena's ability to increase in-service fire apparatus during Red Flag or other severe weather events or natural disasters.
- Many of Pasadena's frontline fire apparatus see a high volume of emergency calls. Newer fire apparatus increases the safety of and service level to the citizens.

I am sure you will agree with us that the proposals outlined above will go a long way to establishing the first-class Fire Department our residents have stated they wanted, and for which they were willing to tax themselves. I look forward to discussion with City leaders on our proposals as the process of drafting the next City budget begins.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Scott Austin".

Scott Austin
President
Pasadena Firefighters Association, Local 809

19 MAY 16 09:11 AM
CITY CLERK

May 15, 2019

Mr. Steven Mermell, City Manager
Office of the City Manager
100 N. Garfield Avenue, Room S228
Pasadena, CA 91101

Dear Mr. Mermell,

The importance of regularly inspecting buildings to ensure they are in compliance with fire safety standards was tragically highlighted by the "Ghost Ship Fire" in Oakland where 38 people died in a building which did not comply with those standards. State legislation passed in response to that tragedy mandates a yearly report to the City Council on state mandated fire inspections; of course, the key is that those inspections take place.

We have stressed to Fire Chief Washington for the past several years the necessity to add funding for more fire inspectors in the Pasadena Fire Department to ensure state mandated inspections are completed in Pasadena. We are pleased to see you have requested funding for another full time fire inspector position to accomplish this task, and we hope that the Council will act on this request. While some inspection duties have been covered by diverting on-duty fire personnel and a temporary worker, public safety is best served by a dedicated inspector who can inspect buildings in this city on a regular basis.

Local 809 stands ready to provide any input you or the Council may need on this issue.

Respectfully,



Scott Austin
President
Pasadena Firefighters Association, Local 809

CC: Chief Bertral T. Washington
Mayor and City Council members