

MESSAGE FROM FIRE CHIEF DARYL L. OSBY

November 2016



We continue to work toward common goals while providing life safety emergency services to our 4.1 million residents and business oversight for the operations of the Fire Department.

During the month of November, the Department implemented the Fiscal Year 2017–2018 (FY 17–18) Zero Base Budget (ZBB); supported the rebranding and expansion of the Safe Youth Zone program; and reaffirmed our relationship with the Family Support Group.

ZERO BASE BUDGET

The services and supplies (S&S) budget process for FY 17–18 was significantly different than previous years. As part of the overall strategic plan goal to ensure fiscal sustainability and reduce the reliance on one-time reserve funds, the Department implemented the ZBB.

Until recently, bureaus were provided with a base S&S budget, which was the

prior year's budget, minus any one-time and grant-funded items. The base S&S budget was the starting point for each bureau's annual budget request.

With ZBB, each bureau received an interim allocation as well as S&S expenditure information from the last three years, grouped by budget category. Each budget category was assigned a funding type (mandatory, basic essential or discretionary) to assist each bureau in prioritizing its S&S expenditure needs.

Using this information, the expectation was for each bureau to develop a budget request that did not exceed the interim allocation and will meet the bureau's needs.

By implementing the ZBB, we will reduce the Department's reliance on reserves for our daily S&S expenditures. More importantly, the reserves will then be readily available for the Department's critical infrastructure projects.

SAFE YOUTH ZONE

Earlier this month, I stood with Supervisor Don Knabe, Sheriff Jim McDonnell and other public safety partners during the launch of the County of Los Angeles' rebranded and expanded Safe Youth Zone program.

The Safe Youth Zone program creates a wider network of safe havens for child sex trafficking victims and children in desperate situations who are seeking help. While it is still in its pilot phase in select South Bay cities, the Safe Youth Zone program will ultimately include fire stations and sheriff's stations throughout the County.

Through the Safe Youth Zone program's updated First Responder Protocol for Law Enforcement, fire and other public safety personnel are able to immediately request services for a child, so he or she can be placed in a healthier, secure environment than what they left.

As it currently stands, our 173

County-wide fire stations have always been—and will always remain—a safe and welcome zone for youth, especially those seeking help and protection during times of need. Designated Safe Youth Zones will be properly identified by visible placards.

Thank you, Supervisor Knabe, for the vision and follow-through to ensure every child in Los Angeles County feels safe and protected, and has a prosperous future to look forward to.

The Department is proud to be included in the expanded Safe Youth Zone Program; we are pleased to be part of this life-saving and life-changing initiative.

FAMILY IS EVERYTHING

For more than 30 years, the Family Support Group has provided support and comfort for widows and widowers who have lost their firefighting spouses while on the job.

It all started when Candy Wilson and Angie Baquet lost their firefighter husbands in 1984. At the time, both women had small children and clung onto each other as they grieved. They ultimately decided to help other widows and widowers by founding the Family Support Group.

On Nov. 2, Battalion Chief Anderson Mackey and I gathered with the Family Support Group at the County of Los Angeles Fire Museum for our annual luncheon. It is an opportunity to gather and remind the widows and widowers that the Department continues to be there for them and will always remain a part of their lives.

The Family Support Group is truly an appreciated, invaluable resource and support network of companionship and assistance during the life-changing process of mourning and healing.

We are grateful for its existence and its relationship with the Department. The

Family Support Group immediately reaches out and embraces affected families. They are an extended branch of the Department, and keep us updated on the needs and concerns of our Fire family—no matter where they are in their lives.

Thank you to the Family Support Group for its years of devotion and loyalty by guiding families through a difficult time and helping them navigate through the resources available to them after the death of a loved one and/or spouse through the Survivors Handbook.

As a source of overwhelming love, care and compassion, the group has helped hearts heal and fortified the importance of cherishing and valuing every minute we have with our loved ones.

GIVING THANKS

As we reflect on our accomplishments during this time of the year, I want to thank you for consistently giving your all and working together as a team to ensure the year-round success of the Department. We consistently provide the best quality of care and service to our hometown residents and business owners—and that does not go unnoticed.

When we collaborate and share our expertise, talent and skills, together we strengthen and support the Department while maintaining the highest standards and ultimately fulfilling our mission of protecting lives, property and the environment.

