

Bel-Air Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council

18 January 2025

WHEREAS, the Los Angeles Fire Department's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program, established in 1985, is essential for empowering residents in emergency situations; and

WHEREAS, recent wildfires have underscored the necessity of community members trained through CERT to aid in response and evacuation, particularly in high-risk wildland-urban interface areas like Bel-Air Beverly Crest; and

WHEREAS, the Los Angeles Fire Department is facing a \$7 million reduction in Overtime Variable Staffing Hours, threatening specialized programs including disaster response and CERT training; and

WHEREAS, in 2024 alone, CERT trained 2,357 students, 2,700 Hands-Only CPR students, and 961 Fire Extinguisher students, with CERT Call Out volunteers contributing 940 hours of essential community service; and

WHEREAS, CERT training includes critical skills such as Stop-the-Bleed, fire extinguisher use, and hands-only CPR, which are vital for comprehensive community preparedness; and

WHEREAS, CERT volunteers support routine LAFD activities, freeing up resources for high-need areas and ensuring that firefighters can concentrate their efforts where they are most needed; and

WHEREAS, with upcoming major events such as the 2028 Olympics and increasing natural disaster risks, CERT's role is more critical than ever for public safety and community resilience;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Bel-Air Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council:

1. Opposes any reduction in funding or staffing for the CERT program, urging the Los Angeles City Council and Mayor to increase support for its operation and growth;
2. Requests prioritization of emergency preparedness programs, including CERT, as essential services in light of recent wildfire events and ongoing natural disaster risks;
3. Supports the allocation of additional resources to promote CERT training opportunities specifically within hillside communities that face elevated wildfire risks;
4. Recognizes the long-term value of CERT in promoting city resilience and disaster mitigation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this motion be distributed to the Los Angeles City Council, Mayor's Office, Board of Fire Commissioners, and the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment.