

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR JANICE HAHN

August 15, 2017

Our first responders in Los Angeles County should demographically represent the communities that they serve. When our residents come into contact with our firefighters, sharing commonalities such as gender, ethnicity, and language helps to form a bond with our residents by instilling confidence and trust.

Data released in 2016 by the Bureau of Labor Statistics shows that women make up only 3.5 percent of firefighters nationally. The firefighting profession also reflects low numbers among minority racial groups with only 6.8 percent of the firefighting workforce made up of African Americans, 1.4 percent Asian, and 7.7 percent Hispanic or Latino.

Assembly Bill 579 (AB 579) would require the Division of Apprenticeship Standards, in conjunction with the California Firefighter Joint Apprenticeship Committee to develop a statewide firefighter pre-apprenticeship program to aid local fire agencies in recruiting candidates from underrepresented groups. AB 579 will establish a program to prepare underrepresented groups, including women, with the skills, competencies and mentorship needed to pass the physical, written and oral components necessary to be eligible for consideration in the firefighting profession.

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MOTION

SOLIS _____

KUEHL _____

HAHN _____

BARGER _____

RIDLEY-THOMAS _____

I believe AB 579 has the potential to help us here in Los Angeles County with our recruiting of women and other underrepresented groups into our firefighting profession and enable them to become public safety heroes in our communities. Our Los Angeles County Fire Chief is recommending that our Board Support AB 579.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors send a five signature letter to the Governor and members of the Los Angeles County delegation supporting AB 579.

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