

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HOLLY J. MITCHELL

February 6, 2024

Dedicate Los Angeles County Fire Station 58 in Honor of Assistant Fire Chief Hershel L. Clady

Assistant Fire Chief Hershel L. Clady was a true trailblazer in the Los Angeles County Fire Department (Department) and a legend within the fire service. Chief Clady was one of only seven Black firefighters in the Department when he joined its ranks in 1969. Chief Clady set out to make change and shift the trajectory toward promoting diversity, belonging, and inclusion: fighting for equal rights for minorities and women in the Department. He was among the early wave of firefighters who sought to create a workforce that mirrored the communities we serve.

Chief Clady proudly became the first Black firefighter to promote to the rank of engineer in 1975 and then became the first Black fire captain in 1977. As a captain, he led the first all-Black firefighter crew out of Fire Station 58 in Ladera Heights. Later, he was promoted to battalion chief, then to assistant fire chief. All along, he was a vocal and instrumental member, and later president, of the Los Angeles County Stentorians.

Chief Clady retired in 2001 after 32 years of dedicated and faithful service to the Department. Those three decades of service were about more than helping the communities and residents in our care. Through his consistent and unwavering determination, Chief Clady broke barriers, achieved personal victories, and set the bar for the rest of the Department. Chief Clady passed away on January 22, 2023, at the age

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of 81. Chief Clady enriched the Department and paved the way for many others who followed in his footsteps.

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Instruct the Los Angeles County Fire Chief to dedicate Fire Station 58 in Ladera Heights, in honor of Assistant Fire Chief Hershel L. Clady, to show appreciation for his heroic public service to the residents and communities of Los Angeles County.

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(JM)