

January 21, 2025

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR JANICE HAHN

County of Los Angeles Fire Department Partnership with the Los Angeles Emergency Preparedness Foundation to Accept Online Monetary Donations

Since the unprecedented Los Angeles County wildfire siege began on Tuesday, January 7, 2025, the generosity from the community has been inspiring. After the County, State, and Federal government proclaimed the existence of a local emergency for the Windstorm and Critical Fire Events, countless residents, organizations, and entities have reached out wanting to provide financial assistance to the County of Los Angeles Fire Department (Fire Department). Currently, the Fire Department is only able to accept in-kind donations and monetary donations made via mail-in check. The Fire Department does not have a mechanism in place to accept online donations, via credit card or debit card. Additionally, the Fire Department does not have an established Foundation to accept donations on its behalf.

The Los Angeles Emergency Preparedness Foundation (LAEPF) is prepared to help. The LAEPF is a 501(c)(3) organization and is in good standing with the Department of Justice's Registry of Charities and Fundraisers. There are no Fire Department or Los Angeles County employees on its Board. The Fire Department currently has a Memorandum of Agreement with the LAEPF for 1) the operation of the Community Brigade Pilot Program in Supervisorial District 3, which was approved on October 17, 2023, and 2) for the Fire Department's Centennial

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Celebration held on December 13, 2024, which was approved on May 7, 2024. The LAEPF has been a pivotal partner to the Fire Department for community outreach, engagement, and education in preparing local communities for major disasters.

The LAEPF will provide support by receiving, managing, and disbursing donor funds on behalf of the Fire Department. The LAEPF's willingness to assist the Fire Department until they can stand up a foundation is greatly appreciated. The total administrative fee to be collected by the LAEPF to handle the receipt and disbursement responsibilities is five percent of the donor funds.

The Fire Department will ensure all donations received through the LAEPF are in compliance with Government Code Section 25355 and the County Fiscal Manual Section 2.4.0 (Donations and Donation Trust Funds).

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Authorize the Los Angeles County Fire Chief to execute an agreement with the Los Angeles Emergency Preparedness Foundation (LAEPF) allowing them to manage the receipt and disbursement of donor funds on behalf of the Los Angeles County Fire Department, with an administrative fee at five percent of the collected donor funds and approved as to form by County Counsel.
2. Delegate authority to the Fire Chief, or his designee, to execute agreement amendments, suspension, or termination if deemed necessary, approved as to form by County Counsel.
3. Authorize the LAEPF to use the Los Angeles County Fire Department's name and logo in connection with the collection and management of the donated funds until the termination of the agreement.

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