



Est. 1966

Los Bomberos de Los Angeles

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Secretary Cynthia Hernandez  
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Director Arturo Tarango  
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May 23, 2021  
Los Angeles Fire Commission

Dear Honorable Fire Commission,

Los Bomberos is troubled by recent allegations involving a high-ranking member of the Fire Chief's staff coupled with the hasty promotion and appointment of the Chief Deputy of Administrative Operations. We have become aware that a high-ranking member of the Fire Chief's staff may have been unfit for duty and under the influence while serving in their official capacity and on city property as witnessed by other high-ranking staff. It was also alleged that other members of his command staff may have facilitated special privileges to this high-ranking member to circumvent the investigatory process, including timely notifications, and deviations from policies which would have included mandatory testing.

An equally concerning aspect is that soon after the Fire Chief was made aware of the fitness for duty issue, he immediately made what appears to be a hasty appointment of a new Chief Deputy of Administrative Operations, contrary to his public statements to the stakeholder groups that he would wait several months before the final selection was made. While the character and credentials of those who were considered for the position are not in question – it is the timing and motives for the hasty selection that are suspect.

We respectfully request that a full investigation be initiated into these allegations by an outside agency and that the process to hastily select a Chief Deputy, given the suspicious timing of the Fire Chief's selection be momentarily paused. The mere appearance of malfeasance and the notion of a double standard in offering high-ranking members of the Fire Chief's staff privileges to circumvent disciplinary processes is troubling to all firefighters. This is not an isolated incident, in the past there have been other members of the Fire Chief's staff who have been given a "pass" while those with less rank and influence are treated more harshly. Los Bomberos has made great strides since our beginnings in 1966 to ensure fairness, opportunity, accountability, and equal treatment of all department members. We respect the rights and protections of due process, but we feel that the nature of these allegations, whether they are real or perceived, are becoming a pattern and practice of the Fire Chief's tenure and are barriers to building organizational trust.

Respectfully,

Patrick Isidoro Butler-Hoyos

President, Los Bomberos de Los Angeles

CC: Fire Chief; United Firefighters of Los Angeles City, President Freddy Escobar; The Stentorian's, President Gerald Durant; Women in the Fire Service, President Kris Larson; Los Angeles Chief Officers Association, President Jaime Moore; Deputy Mayor, Jeff Gorrel