

Proposed SONC Motion to Request Nithya Raman Approve Funding for CERT

The January 2025 Wildfire and Windstorm Disaster created an unprecedented crisis for the City of Los Angeles, threatening communities, displacing residents, destroying thousands of homes and structures, and tragically leading to multiple fatalities. During a disaster, the number and scope of incidents can overwhelm conventional emergency services and having the community trained and prepared is critical to survival. These events are tragic reminders of the importance of community disaster preparedness training to fortify and protect neighborhoods in case of large-scale emergencies.

On January 28, 2025, the Los Angeles City Council unanimously approved a motion brought forward by Council Member Hernandez from CD 1 to utilize \$50,000. from the AB1290 Fund No. 53P account # 281201 to fund an expansion of the LAFD C.E.R.T. program to ensure it has the resources needed to be presented in a multilingual in-person and virtual format, provided by the Los Angeles Fire Department Foundation.

LAFD staffing and available resources are experiencing critical shortages. The LAFD C.E.R.T. program trains community members how to respond to all forms of hazards, including medical emergencies and natural disasters. The LAFD C.E.R.T. program reduces 911 calls and saves lives by training residents to be a first responder until help arrives.

Council District 4 is currently at risk of losing access to the LAFD C.E.R.T. program due to lack of funding.

The Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council recognizes the importance of the LAFD C.E.R.T. program particularly given the recent wildfire disaster and requests Council Member Nithya Raman to provide funding from the AB1290 Fund No. 53P account # 281204 (CD 4 Redevelopment Projects – Services) in the amount of \$50,000. to provide the necessary resources to ensure CD 4 residents have access to the lifesaving LAFD C.E.R.T. course.