



## PACIFIC PALISADES COMMUNITY COUNCIL

August 24, 2025

City:

Hon. Karen Bass, Mayor, City of Los Angeles

Hon. Marqueece Harris-Dawson, President, Los Angeles City Council

Hon. John S. Lee, Chair, City Council Public Safety Committee (PFC); Hon. Curren Price, Jr. Vice-Chair, PFC; Hon. Tim McOsker, Traci Park and Hugo Soto-Martinez, Members, PFC

Ronnie Villanueva, Interim Fire Chief, Los Angeles Fire Dept. (LAFD)

Jim McDonnell, Chief of Police, Los Angeles Police Dept. (LAPD)

Carol P. Parks, General Manager, Los Angeles Emergency Management Dept. (EMD)

Laura Rubio-Cornejo, General Manager, Los Angeles Dept. of Transportation (LADOT)

State:

Hon. Gavin Newsom, Governor, State of California (*via his Regional Director Vishesh Anand*)

Nancy Ward, Director, Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES)

County:

Hon. Lindsey Horvath, Los Angeles County Supervisor, SD 3

Kevin McGowan, Director, Los Angeles County Office of Emergency Management (OEM)

Federal:

Hon. Brad Sherman, U.S. Representative, 32nd District (*via his District Director, Scott Abrams*)

Daniel Driscoll, Acting Director, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives (ATF) (*via Congressman Sherman/Dist. Dir. Abrams*)

*Via email to all addressees and submission to LA City Clerk public comment portal*

**Re: CF 25-0848 (Park / Yaroslavsky): SUPPORT; Request Expedited Completion of Reports**

Dear City, State, County and Federal Officials:

Pacific Palisades Community Council (PPCC) has been the most broad-based community organization and the voice of Pacific Palisades since its founding in 1973. As you know, the Palisades community was destroyed in the devastating Palisades Fire. Our community is still reeling from the impacts and justifiably seeks answers as to how this tragedy occurred and how another disaster can be prevented in the future.

As a result, at our regularly scheduled public board meeting on August 14, 2025, on the recommendation of the PPCC Land Use Committee (LUC), the PPCC board unanimously passed the following motion:

*"As the community devastated by the unprecedented Palisades Fire, when lives and safety were put at extreme risk due to limited routes of ingress and egress and the disturbing lack of any emergency evacuation plan for our community, Pacific*

Palisades Community Council (PPCC) strongly supports Council File 25-0848 (Park / Yaroslavsky), calling for 1) a report back on the status of the City's compliance with AB 747, 2) a list and evaluation of evacuation routes within CD 11, and 3) plans to improve evacuation route infrastructure, signage, traffic control and public education.

"PPCC further calls the City Council's attention to the urgent need for infrastructure funding to absorb the cost of implementing a mitigation plan, including by developing new egress and egress routes, and calls on the City to proactively and constructively engage with FEMA and OES, by (among other things) **expediting completion of the After-Action Reports by the Office of Emergency Management and LAFD**, so that those engaged in evacuation planning and disaster response will have the benefit of these findings."

We recognize that the U.S. Attorney has reportedly requested that after-action reports by LAFD and/or by the city, county and state be delayed until the federal ATF report on the origin/cause of the Palisades Fire is completed. We also understand and commend the fact that Councilwoman Park has called for an "outside investigation, . . . [to] serve as a peer review to ensure that every question is answered," and that retention of an independent firm to conduct the investigation is in process.

Despite the requested pause on after-action reports, we stress the urgent need for 1) infrastructure funding for a mitigation plan as noted in our motion above, and 2) completion of fire origin reports, after-action reports and/or investigations as to Los Angeles evacuation planning and disaster response (including reports by AFT, Cal OES, OEM, EMD, LAFD, LAPD and LADOT) as swiftly as possible, so that the critical goal of understanding what led to and occurred during the disastrous Palisades Fire, and ensuring future evacuation readiness and public safety in our disaster-prone areas, including Pacific Palisades, can be achieved without further delay.

Moreover, as reported in the *Los Angeles Times*, it appears that the city of Los Angeles has failed to comply with an important state law requirement (AB 747) to provide an analysis as to whether quick and safe evacuations are feasible. On January 7, 2025, our residents experienced first-hand dangerous and life-threatening evacuation scenarios – widely reported on numerous news platforms – which in turn were the result of an apparent complete failure of evacuation planning by the city. **On behalf of the community at the epicenter of the Palisades Fire, PPCC respectfully urges the PSC to take up and approve the motion in CF 25-0848 as soon as possible.**

Thank you for your consideration and anticipated cooperation with these crucial requests.

Sincerely,

*Sue Kohl and Christina Spitz*

Sue Kohl, PPCC President and Christina Spitz, PPCC LUC Chair  
Pacific Palisades Community Council

(LUC Members: James Alexakis, Steve Cron, Michael Edlen, Howard Robinson, Joanna Spak, Maryam Zar)

cc (via email):

Robert Fenton, Jr., FEMA Region 9 Administrator, and Kenneth R. Cooper, Special Agent in Charge, ATF / Los Angeles Division (via Congressman Sherman/Dist. Dir. Abrams); Deputy Chief Phillip Fligiel, West Bureau Commander, LAFD; Deputy Chief Gerald A. Woodyard, Operations-West Bureau Commanding Officer, LAPD