



KAREN BASS
MAYOR

January 29, 2026

Pacific Palisades Community Council
P.O. Box 1131
Pacific Palisades, CA 90272

Dear Community Members,

I want to thank everyone who attended and voiced their concerns at the community meeting. I could see, hear and feel the frustration, anger and disappointment many of you continue to feel about the Palisades Fire. The fire raised valid concerns about safety, decision-making and public trust, and all of you deserve clear answers and thoughtful consideration.

As often happens during an open forum, many of your concerns overlapped and were repeated within different questions that I answered during the discussion. As a result, I believe you deserve a clear response that addresses the broader issues you raised.

I have openly acknowledged that the Los Angeles Fire Department could have done better. I accepted responsibility for improving the department as it exists today. At the same time, it is important to remember that I was not in command during the Palisades Fire, was not present at the incident, and was not involved in the decisions made at that time. Because of this, I cannot explain or defend actions I did not take, nor can I speculate on decisions made by prior leadership.

What I can do is ensure those mistakes are not repeated. I am focusing on improving systems and practices rather than assigning blame after the fact. Since taking office, I have strengthened policies, improved training and enhanced operational readiness, so the department can better protect the City of Los Angeles.

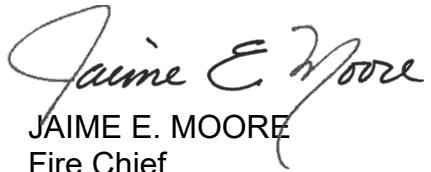
I would also like to clarify a comment I made during the meeting that evening. There may have been some confusion regarding an inadvertent reference to an internal investigation related to the After-Action Review (AAR). In that comment, I was referring to the internal investigation into the Lachman Fire and the text messages, not an investigation of the Palisades Fire After-Action Review itself. While there are multiple internal and external investigations currently underway related to other matters, I want to make it clear that the Palisades Fire AAR is not presently the subject of any Los Angeles Fire Department investigation.

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Trust is rebuilt through consistent action over time. As the Fire Chief, I remain committed to transparency, continued improvement, and meaningful engagement with the community. The department's focus is not on revisiting the past, but on ensuring a safer future for everyone who lives and works in Los Angeles.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jaime E. Moore".

JAIME E. MOORE
Fire Chief