



February 24, 2025

Dear Mayor Bass and Members of the Los Angeles City Council,

Equity on Fire stands in solidarity with LAWFS and UFLAC in calling for the immediate reinstatement of Los Angeles Fire Chief Kristin Crowley.

The Palisades Fire posed extraordinary challenges to the region and the City, resulting in devastating consequences. The tragic loss of homes, lives, and the profound disruption to Los Angeles neighborhoods will take years to heal.

As we grieve these losses, we must also acknowledge the extraordinary sacrifices of the firefighters who confronted the blaze. These dedicated professionals worked relentlessly—often without adequate water supply, sufficient personnel, or necessary equipment—enduring immense physical and psychological strain. Their commitment deserves not only recognition but also the resources required to fulfill their sworn duty to protect Angelenos.

According to the Los Angeles Fire Department's Service Impact on Operations and Standards of Cover, the department operates with 62 fewer fire stations than necessary. While the city's population grew from 2.4 million in 1960 to 3.8 million in 2020, and 911 call volume surged from 100,985 in 1969 to 504,604 in 2023, the number of fire stations declined from 112 to 106. On December 4, 2024, Chief Crowley emphasized that budget reductions have "severely limited the Department's capacity to respond to large-scale emergencies, including wildfires."

In 1990, the LAFD employed just over 3,000 firefighters. Today, despite significant population growth and urban development, that number has increased by only 300. Meanwhile, the Department of Water and Power's infrastructure has failed to keep pace with demand, significantly hindering firefighting efforts. The prolonged draining of the Santa Ynez Reservoir, which holds 117 million gallons, left the Pacific Palisades area dangerously vulnerable during a time of heightened fire risk.

During the Palisades Fire, Chief Crowley demonstrated exceptional leadership by strategically deploying resources in advance, coordinating with regional and state agencies, and managing operations amid record-setting Santa Ana winds. On January 7, the LAFD responded to over 3,000 emergency calls and 50 structure fires while simultaneously addressing the wildfire—a testament to Chief Crowley’s command capabilities and her unwavering commitment to citywide safety.

Elected officials have a fundamental responsibility to ensure that first responders are properly equipped to protect the public. The \$7 million cut to LAFD’s overtime budget directly impaired its ability to respond to large-scale emergencies. Holding Chief Crowley responsible for longstanding resource deficiencies, is not only misplaced but unjust. Effective leadership requires accepting responsibility for systemic issues, not deflecting blame onto those working within constrained conditions.

Reinstating Chief Kristin Crowley is what the rank and file want and Angelinos deserve. This is essential to restoring public trust and ensuring the operational integrity of the LAFD.

Respectfully,

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