

January 9, 2018

Mayor Eric Garcetti
Fire Chief Terrazas
Sent by Email

Mr. Mayor and Fire Chief Terrazas,

At our regularly held public meeting on January 9, 2018, the Board of Directors of the Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council (“DLANC”) voted to support this letter.

On Friday, Mayor Garcetti and Fire Chief Terrazas held a meeting at a downtown fire station to announce a new City effort to reduce the risk of fires in hillside areas. The commitment to resources for the hillside communities was a direct result of the determination that an encampment led to the devastating Skirball fire less than a month ago.

According to statistics provided by the Downtown Industrial District BID, there were 60 encampment-sourced fires in the skid row area of downtown in 2017. These fires injured residents and endangered near-by structures. And yet, the skid row fires were not considered when these new resources were being allocated.

The Los Angeles Times (January 8, 2018) reported that many of these resources would be used to attempt to relocate encampments currently in the hillside areas. The DLANC Board opposes this type of solution for downtown while strongly encouraging that resources be allocated to skid row in order to address the fires in this community. One suggestion would be an engine water pump for Fire Station 9

While it may seem that the scope of a fire in skid row does not match the magnitude of the Skirball fire, the devastation to some of our most vulnerable residents cannot be diminished.

Therefore, the Downtown L.A. Neighborhood Council requests that the City devote funds and man hours to the skid row and Downtown area for fire prevention.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,



Patricia Berman
DLANC President

CC: Councilman Jose Huizar
Controller Ron Galperin
LA City Council President Herb Wesson
City Administrative Officer Richard Llewellen