



Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council

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September 2, 2015

Honorable Mayor of Los Angeles, Mr. Eric Garcetti
City Hall -- 200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Emergency Preparedness Bins -- Lake Balboa

Mr. Mayor:

This past week, we have marked the 10th Anniversary of the devastation of New Orleans during Katrina. And back in 2008, Dr. Lucy Jones stated that a large earthquake on the San Andreas Fault would be our Katrina -- only much worse.

**New Orleans was warned far ahead of landfall and had days to prepare.
Los Angeles will have NO warning.
Some 95% of the population was evacuated from New Orleans.
None of our population will be evacuated prior to the Quake.
Most of New Orleans' infrastructure remained intact.
Ours will not.**

How much better are we (Los Angeles), prepared for disaster than we were ten years ago?

Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council has been trying to prepare our stakeholders by urging them as individuals, families and neighborhoods to hope for the best but prepare for the worst disasters that we know will inevitably strike this great City -- fires, floods, earthquakes, pandemics, terrorist attacks.

We have offered CERT Trainings (including the largest class in the City, 154 graduates in one weekend), and Map Your Neighborhood Presentations, the Washington State 9-Step Program that teaches neighbors how to care for their own family and immediate neighborhood AFTER disaster strikes.

We have instituted an Emergency Preparedness Committee that meets monthly and offers speakers, demonstrations and classes on a variety of EP topics. We have regular attendees from all over the Valley.

We have implemented an Amateur (HAM) Radio Net that meets on the air each Sunday to practice our skills and constantly check our equipment, both of which we know will be necessary in a disaster to maintain communication into, out of, and throughout the Valley.

Page Two -- Mr. Eric Garcetti

We were a Founding Neighborhood Council of the Valley Disaster Preparedness Fair (our 8th Annual Fair takes place this coming October 3rd). This is now the largest such event in the City and will be even bigger than ever this year with over 30 Neighborhood Councils participating, some of the most knowledgeable EP speakers in the State, demonstrations, exhibits and information distribution, with Free Parking, Lunch and Family EP Kits as long as supplies last. We anticipate that thousands will attend.

And perhaps most importantly, we used an entire year's Neighborhood Council budget (\$50,000), to purchase two steel cargo containers and filled them with supplies that will be needed by First Responders -- LAPD, LAFD, Medical Professionals, and CERT trained individuals and teams. These bins were to be the first of four for Lake Balboa to help us care for our own Stakeholders. The kits inside will supplement those supplies of First Responders, of which we know they will quickly run out.

However, we have been told by the City that we cannot even maintain the supplies we have, much less purchase additional bins and equipment. To do so would be a "liability" to the City. And that Neighborhood Councils are to act in "an advisory capacity" only!

Mr. Mayor -- I assure you that the City is "liable" for far more terrifying things than supplies to take care of its citizens. And as to "advisory capacity", if I wished to do that as a Board Member of one of the most active Neighborhood Councils in the City, I would stay at home, watch the City Council Meetings on tv and email my "advice" to them. Instead, along with thousands of others, we, as Neighborhood Council Board Members, are contributing millions of volunteer hours to the City, FREE OF CHARGE each year.

Mr. Mayor, in January of this year at the Resilience By Design meeting in Northridge, you stood beside Dr. Lucy Jones and promised to put Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council in touch with City Attorney Mike Feuer to address this problem when you spoke with Bill Haller, our first NC President. It is now September, and we are still waiting. The time for a devastating earthquake, or some other major disaster in Southern California, draws closer each day.

We await your immediate reply.

Sincerely,

**Linda Pruett, Co-Chair
Emergency Preparedness Committee
Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council**

cc: Mr. Mike Feuer, Ms. Connie Llanos, Mr. Darren Martinez, Mr. Bill Haller