



# UNITED FIREFIGHTERS of LOS ANGELES CITY

Local 112 IAFF AFL-CIO-CLC

December 10, 2019

Ralph Terrazas  
Fire Chief  
Los Angeles Fire Department  
200 N. Main Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Chief Terrazas:

We are writing today to express our very serious concerns regarding any possible efforts to lower the standards at our LAFD Drill Tower.

As you know, the Los Angeles Fire Department is responsible for fire prevention, suppression, and emergency medical care for more than 4 million residents and visitors here in our city. As such, the demands on our Firefighters and Paramedics are enormous – with each individual Firefighter needing to be prepared at all times to respond to a structure fire, utilize the Jaws of Life in a serious auto accident, and provide emergency medical care for an injured patient.

Over the years, the training to become an LAFD Firefighter has become more specialized and effective. However, it is critical that even as our training evolves to be more efficient, we absolutely cannot lower the required standards to become a Los Angeles City Firefighter. In our opinion, the high standards that have been set by the LAFD over the years are not exclusionary of anybody – regardless of a candidate's ethnicity, gender, age, or sexual orientation.

For these reasons, we are extremely concerned regarding the ongoing comments and pressure from LAFD Commissioner Rebecca Ninburg who has made it clear that she believes that too many female candidates are failing the Drill Tower. The truth is, candidates fail to graduate from the Drill Tower because they do not meet the required standards for completion. This includes both men and women as well as recruits from all ethnic backgrounds. To suggest that female candidates in the Drill Tower are discriminated against or are held to a higher standard is simply not true. There is not – and there never can be – two sets of standards for our LAFD Firefighter candidates in the Drill Tower.

We absolutely support a diverse Los Angeles Fire Department that reflects the incredible diversity of the City of Los Angeles. But we can never compromise the safety of our Firefighters or the public that we serve by lowering the extremely high standards



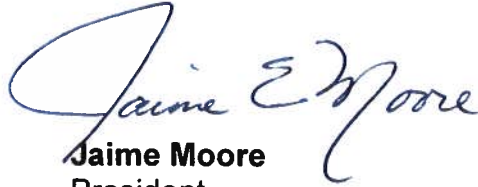
that have been set to join our world class fire department. We are in the business of saving lives and property on a daily basis. In order to accomplish this mission in a safe and effective manner, we must maintain the highest standards possible for our Firefighters at all times.

Please feel free to contact any one of us if you have any questions or comments regarding this very important issue.

In Solidarity,



**Freddy Escobar**  
President  
United Firefighters of Los Angeles City



**Jaime Moore**  
President  
Chief Officers Association

CC: Mayor Eric Garcetti  
Council President Nury Martinez  
Public Safety Chair Monica Rodriguez  
Deputy Mayor Jeff Gorrell  
Board of Fire Commissioners