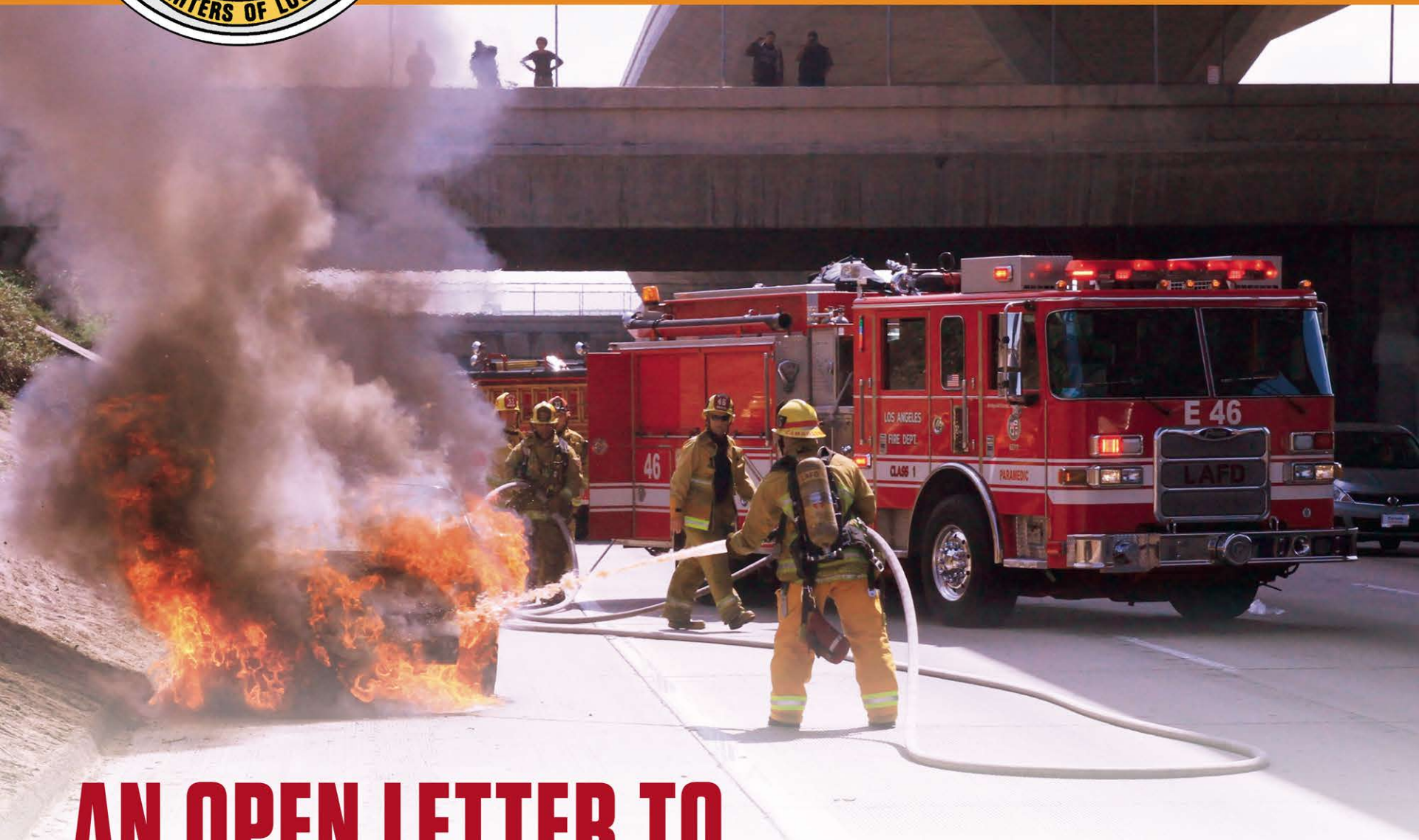




UNITED FIREFIGHTERS of Los Angeles City



AN OPEN LETTER TO THE PEOPLE OF LOS ANGELES

Dear Angelenos,

Recently, there has been widespread misinformation about the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) and the men and women who serve the City of Los Angeles as Firefighters, Paramedics, Dispatchers, and Inspectors.

LET US CLARIFY THE FACTS:

- » The LAFD has not hired a single new Firefighter in nearly 6 years. **Our Department has fewer Firefighters per capita than any big city in the country.**
- » Between 2009 and 2012, the LAFD budget was cut 16% and 370 Firefighter positions were permanently eliminated. This led to increased response times and put the public at greater risk. Despite these cuts, emergency incidents have increased and the LAFD responds to well over 1,100 calls for service every day.
- » To provide 24/7 staffing, our Firefighters normally work a 56 hour week; however, with current staffing shortages, Los Angeles City Firefighters and Paramedics are being forced to work up to 144 hours per week.
- » On March 23rd, yet another Angeleno was tragically lost to a fire-related death, the 13th such tragedy this year, putting LA on a record pace for fire-related deaths in 2014.
- » LAFD Firefighters, Paramedics, Dispatchers, and Inspectors have been asked to do more with less for years, but they are stretched too thin and need your support.

FIREFIGHTERS PER POPULATION 2013



LOS ANGELES

.88 Firefighters per 1,000 residents

New York City: 1.31 Firefighters per 1,000 residents
Chicago: 1.59 Firefighters per 1,000 residents
Houston: 1.79 Firefighters per 1,000 residents
Boston: 2.35 Firefighters per 1,000 residents
Baltimore: 2.91 Firefighters per 1,000 residents

...
US Census and Fire Department Data

Recently it was announced that the June academy class of new Firefighters will be suspended. The United Firefighters of Los Angeles City feels that this is a tremendous mistake. **The ones to suffer from this decision will be Angelenos who call 911 for help.**

Yes, the LAFD hiring process is imperfect. We agree that it needs an overhaul. But the LAFD has little to do with this process. We don't manage the broken system. This is the responsibility of the City's Personnel Department. Their mistakes are preventing new Firefighters from being hired and it is Angelenos who will pay the price with longer response times.

LA City Firefighters will continue to do our part to protect public safety. City leaders need to do their part to support those who save others by providing adequate staffing and resources.

Sincerely,

UNITED FIREFIGHTERS OF LOS ANGELES CITY

For more information
please visit www.uflac.org

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Paid for by United Firefighters of Los Angeles City Local 112 - Issues Committee.

