

MOTION

On Wednesday, June 30th, 2021, the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) seized a large cache of illegal fireworks from a home located on the 700 block of East 27th Street. At approximately 7:30 pm, rather than LAPD removing the explosives from the area, they attempted a controlled detonation, resulting in a massive explosion, ripping through the working-class South LA neighborhood.

According to preliminary findings by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), the LAPD Bomb Squad vehicle was loaded with 42 pounds of explosives, instead of the 16.5 pounds initially estimated by the LAPD, maxing out the detonation chamber's capacity of 25 pounds, causing the truck to explode. Such recklessness displayed by the LAPD left 17 people injured, 37 vehicles destroyed, and over 35 properties damaged. Victims described the scene as if they were walking through a war zone with many suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and demanding answers and justice for the act of negligence.

Rather than wait for the LAPD and the City to respond, Council District 9 took immediate action on day one, working around-the-clock in implementing recovery efforts including, emergency housing for the victims, providing families with three meals a day, and fulfilling their basic necessities, including medical needs, clothing and supplies.

In just days following the blast, in partnership with the LA Emergency Management Department, the Council Office led efforts to open a Local Assistance Center at Trinity Recreation Center, and later a resource site at 28th Street YMCA. District 9 partnered with St. John's Well Child & Family Center mobile unit to provide victims with auditory exams, medical checkups and other referrals as needed, as well as coordinating with the LA County Department of Mental Health for mental health evaluations.

The Council Office established a \$1 Million Emergency Relief Fund to help expedite payments and repairs to the homes of the families who were impacted by the blast. More than 50 families have been assisted with home repairs including, exterior paint, window and door replacements, among other construction work. More than 25 families have received emergency hotel and corporate housing accommodations. Neighbors also received financial assistance in the form of \$10,000 grants for those most severely impacted, and also received \$2,000 Angeleno cards.

Given the devastation that occurred in the neighborhood, more funding and assistance is needed to help make the victims whole. Many people are still experiencing negative impacts on their mental health and well-being due to the explosion. Several residents, as well as the surrounding businesses, have experienced a loss of income because they could not work or open their stores. And of course this disaster further eroded trust between the community and the LAPD, who have yet to provide any financial assistance to the victims of the explosion.

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When disasters have occurred in the past, the government has set up long-term recovery plans for the impacted area. The City should come up with a recovery plan for the 27th Street neighborhood to help the victims recover from this devastation, repair the surrounding community and address longer-term needs.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council instruct the Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA), with assistance from the Emergency Management Department, Housing Department, Community Investment for Families Department, Economic and Workforce Development Department, LA Sanitation & Environment (LASAN), Streets LA, and any other relevant department, and with input from local community based organizations, to report back within 30 days with a Recovery Plan for the 27th Street neighborhood (from 24th Street to 30th Street and from Trinity Street to Griffith Avenue), that will help the area recover from this horrific explosion, including the establishment of a Neighborhood Recovery Center, and services such as infrastructure improvements, business grants, mental health services, job and workforce development, access to children's services, transportation assistance, and prioritization for the City's Guaranteed Basic Income program.

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council instruct the CLA and Chief Administrative Office to identify a minimum of \$5 million for this Recovery Plan, including money from the LAPD budget, and report with recommendations to establish such a fund.

PRESENTED BY: _____

CURREN D. PRICE, JR
Councilmember, 9th District

SECONDED BY: _____