



## **STENTORIANS**

### **The Association of African Americans in the Fire Service**

May 23, 2021

Dear Los Angeles Fire Department Board of Commissioners,

It has been brought to the Los Angeles City Stentorians' attention that we had a high-ranking Chief officer of the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD), who was considered unfit for duty and granted special privileges to remain in his position without proper due process of the allegations against him.

It is alleged that this Chief officer was under the influence and unable to fulfill his administrative duties. This allegation also involves rushing a decision that impacts the appointment to the Chief Deputy of Administrative Operations. The allegations are as follows:

A high-ranking Chief officer displayed being unfit for duty while assigned to a brush incident on department property. It is also alleged that the Fire Chief and other Chief officers were aware and granted special treatment to the member, without a full investigation completed according to department policy. These allegations are extremely troubling if accurate.

The Stentorians Organization has been fully committed and transparent with LAFD command staff to ensure honesty, equity, and fairness for all LAFD members. During a meeting between the Stentorians and the command staff on April 30, 2021, the question was posed to Chief Terrazas, "Do you have anyone in mind for the Chief Deputy of Administrative Operations position, if so, what qualifications were being sought after". Chief Terrazas, said, "No, I will not make a decision for at least a few months, and am ultimately looking for experience and education to adequately fulfill this role". At this point, we were under the impression that a full review of all candidates' qualifications would be considered towards the final decision in fulfilling this role.

On May 21, 2021, we were informed that the Fire Chief decided on the appointment to Deputy Chief of Administrative Operations. In light of the current allegations and the decision to appoint, we question the LAFD's honesty, integrity, and fairness.

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**Gerald Durant**, *President*

**Robert Hawkins**, *Executive Vice President*

**Derwin Pitts**, *Assistant Vice President*

**Kenneth Russell**, *Treasurer*

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**Chris Lewis**, *Sergeant-at-arms*

**Nande Kalenga**, *Parliamentarian/ Historian*

**Kevin Johnson**, *Chief Information Officer*

This allegation is troubling and generates concern that the understanding and trust between the Stentorians and LAFD Command Staff have been fractured.

Due to the recent events surrounding the Chief Officer in question, we request a full investigation that follows the normal practice and protocol to launch further inspection of all the allegations, including the hiring and promotional practice regarding the fulfillment of the Chief Deputy of Administrative Operations position. We wish to discuss these matters further, including what influenced your decision as it relates to the promotion of Deputy Chief of Administrative Operations.

Sincerely,

*Gerald Durant*

President

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