

## **LAFD Response Times Task Force Nears Report**

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After months of analyzing problems with response times at the Los Angeles Fire Department, a special task force said Friday it is less than a month away from making recommendations on a new computerized tracking program.

Department officials also presented some additional analysis as to why response time data presented to the city in recent years was inaccurate.

Assistant Chief Pat Butler and Deputy Chief of Emergency Operations Dave Yamahata told the City Council's Public Safety Committee the task force already has been able to break down some of the areas involved in determining response times.

"We have found we were including in our response times the time for additional resources to respond," Yamahata said. "We would have our initial response and then if they needed additional resources, we would be including that time. As a result, we would be reporting a longer response time."

Butler, who chairs the LAFD's task force, said he hopes to have some details and recommendations within the next month on the information needed to implement the tracking program.

Butler said the department was making progress in developing what is being called a Firestat program, similar to the Los Angeles Police Department's Compstat program that maps crime activity, to help in determining response times and assignment of personnel.

Councilman Mitch Englander, who chairs the Public Safety committee, said he was pleased with the progress being made and the department's acceptance of the need for the study.

Also, he said he wanted the department to send its information to independent evaluators to assist in developing Firestat.

The program got off to a rocky start when Jeff Godown, the consultant hired by the city, quit his job, saying the department was not providing the information he needed.

Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa shifted Police Commissioner Alan Skobin over to the Fire Commission to help in developing the new program. Skobin had been involved with the LAPD Compstat program as well as the reforms of the department.

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