

**HILLSIDE VILLAGE PROPERTY OWNERS  
PROTEST AT FIRE STATION NO. 16 TO SAVE LIVES**

The members of the Hillside Village Property Owners Association, local neighborhood councils and residents associations will gather in front of Fire Station No. 16 on Saturday, January 30, 2010 from 10am-12 noon to protest a reduction in paramedic services for its community.

The Los Angeles Fire Department has been closing fire companies and ambulances on a daily basis since August 6th, 2009 due to budget constraints imposed by the Mayor and City Council. The closures have been at the rate of 28 companies per day, for a total of 87 fewer emergency responders on duty each day. These closures have occurred without public knowledge.

The Fire Chief recently signaled his intent to spread these closures on a wider basis. Beginning on February 3, 2010, Paramedic Assessment Engine 16 will be closed for three consecutive days. This will impact the residents of Hillside Village, University Hills, and South El Sereno to a greater degree.

The majority of homes within these communities are located in what is known as the “*Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone.*” Ascot Hills Park, which is located at the center of these communities, catches fire nearly every year. The local paramedics are familiar with this neighborhood and can easily navigate the complicated hillside while responding to emergencies without delay. Rotating brownouts using firefighters from other areas would result in increased response times, compromising lives. These factors combined create uncertainty among homeowners if lives and property will be adequately protected.

Furthermore, Fire Station No. 16 is the first responder to emergencies at California State University Los Angeles, Woodrow Wilson High School, a middle school and two elementary schools with a population of at least 26,500 students. These imposed brownouts require that another fire stations must respond to local emergencies. However, Fire Station No. 16, being isolated at the City’s eastern most boundary does not have this essential resource. Due to these unique conditions, Fire Station No. 16 must remain self-reliant and not subject to brownouts.

Reduction in fire services creates an unfair impact on this community and can result in lost lives. The message is to keep life safety and firefighter safety a priority, and to keep Fire Station No. 16 at full fire service.

*The Hillside Village Property Owners Association is a nonprofit organization consisting of volunteer membership among residents, property owners, and merchants that promote the highest integrity for our community. Hillside Village is just a 10-minute drive northeast of downtown Los Angeles.*

To learn more, visit [www.lahillsidevillage.com](http://www.lahillsidevillage.com).

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