



# UNITED FIREFIGHTERS of LOS ANGELES CITY

Local 112 IAFF AFL-CIO-CLC

June 11, 2026

Honorable Marqueece Harris-Dawson  
President  
Los Angeles City Council  
200 N. Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Council President Harris-Dawson:

As LAFD Firefighters serving the City of Los Angeles, we see firsthand the benefits of construction done right, and the consequences of construction done wrong.

Every day, our members respond to fires, structural failures, and emergency incidents where corner-cutting and lack of oversight put lives at risk. Incomplete projects, substandard materials, and rushed or unskilled labor all contribute to preventable hazards that endanger both residents and first responders. That's why United Firefighters of Los Angeles City supports establishing a residential construction worker minimum wage.

**This is not just an economic issue – it's a public safety issue.**

A well-paid, professional workforce is more likely to be trained, experienced, and accountable. Quality workers produce quality construction. That means safer electrical systems, properly installed fire barriers, compliant sprinkler systems, and structurally sound buildings. These are not abstract benefits, they're the difference between a contained incident and a catastrophic fire.

Conversely, when contractors underpay workers and cut corners to reduce costs, the results are predictable. We see buildings with compromised fire protection systems, unsafe framing, and prolonged construction sites left exposed and vulnerable. These conditions increase fire risk, create dangerous environments for surrounding communities, and make emergency response more complex and hazardous. Unfinished

and poorly maintained construction sites pose a particularly serious and ongoing threat to public safety. They are more susceptible to fires, trespassing, and accidents - placing additional strain on already stretched emergency resources.

**These hazards can be mitigated with a well-paid, highly trained, professional workforce.**

Ensuring that construction workers are paid fairly helps stabilize the workforce, attract skilled labor, and discourage irresponsible contractors who undermine safety standards. It raises the baseline for quality across the industry and ultimately makes Los Angeles safer. From our perspective on the front lines, investing in quality construction is an investment in fire prevention.

We understand that the City Council has commissioned a study to determine the costs and benefits of a residential construction minimum wage ordinance and, to be clear, our firefighters don't support any mandates that will discourage residential construction. However, when the results of this study are returned, we trust that the City Council will be able to strike a balance that encourages construction and business development while ensuring a quality, professional workforce. Safety and the reduction of preventable risks must be a priority with all decisions related to construction and development.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Doug Coates', with a stylized, flowing script.

**Doug Coates**

President

United Firefighters of Los Angeles City

CC: Mayor Karen Bass  
Los Angeles City Council