

City of Los Angeles Fire Department
FIRE CHIEF

Annual Salary: \$217,945 - \$326,856
(This position will be filled as exempt from Civil Service*)

The City of Los Angeles is seeking an experienced individual to serve as its Fire Chief. The Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) is a full spectrum life safety agency protecting approximately 4 million people who live, work, and play in America's second largest city. The Fire Department's 3,562 uniformed personnel and 338 civilian support staff address multiple aspects of life safety, including fire prevention, firefighting, emergency medical care, technical rescue, hazardous materials mitigation, disaster response, public education, and community service.

CITY GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

Incorporated in 1850, Los Angeles is a charter city governed by the Mayor and the City Council. Mayor Antonio R. Villaraigosa was elected in July 2005 and reelected to a second term this year. The 15 members of the City Council serve full-time and are elected by the district. The other citywide elected officers are the Controller and the City Attorney. The City's elected officials serve four-year terms. Volunteer citizen commissions consisting of prominent business and civic leaders appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council oversee several City departments and bureaus.

CITY ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE

This dynamic and complex City organization structure has 41 departments, bureaus, and offices for which funds are budgeted annually by the Mayor and City Council. In addition, the City has five proprietary departments, two of which are specifically related to retirement plans (civilian and sworn employees) and three operating (enterprise) departments. These three proprietary departments are governed by citizen commissions and are financed solely by revenue generated from their operations (the Departments of Water and Power, Harbor, and Airports).

General Fund authorized positions citywide are approximately 34,234 with an additional 18,397 staff employed by proprietary departments. General Fund Budget for Fiscal Year 2009/10 is approximately \$6.9 billion plus an additional \$10.9 billion under the direction of combined proprietary departments.

DUTIES

The Fire Chief has direct responsibility for the organization, planning, financial management, general administration, and operation of the Fire Department. The Fire Chief is responsible for minimizing all losses of life and property due to disasters, fires, and emergency medical incidents. The challenges encountered by the LAFD include a wide variety of commercial and industrial fire hazards, tactical obstacles related to major waterfront infrastructure, multiple commercial and general aviation airports, oil and gas fields within urbanized areas, and the transport of hazardous materials throughout the metropolitan area. The Fire Chief receives direction only as to major policy determinations, thus the position requires extensive executive ability and an authoritative knowledge in the field of fire prevention, education, public safety, and fire ground command. The Fire Chief is directly charged with providing mentorship and oversight for all other officers within the Department. In addition, the Fire Chief:

* The position of Fire Chief is an exempt, at-will executive position. The incumbent will not accrue any civil service tenure, contractual employment rights or due process rights. The Fire Chief is appointed by the Mayor, subject to confirmation by the City Council, and serves at the pleasure of the Mayor. The incumbent may be removed, without any finding of cause, by the Mayor. Such removal would not be reviewable or appealable, except as provided by the City Charter.

- ❖ Plans and directs the organization, management, and activities of Fire Department personnel, apparatus, and equipment utilized in the prevention, extinguishment, and investigation of fires. The Chief provides guidance to fire ground commanders, and in the event of catastrophic occurrences, may respond to and take command at major emergency incidents.
- ❖ Directs the enforcement of all ordinances and laws relating to the prevention, control, or spread of fires within the city and directs the inspection of all properties within the city.
- ❖ Attends regular meetings of the Board of Fire Commissioners; reports to the Commission on all occurrences in the community; presents verbal and written proposals for discussion and formulation of policy; testifies before the City Council and other public bodies when matters affecting the Fire Department are under discussion.
- ❖ Presides over periodic meetings of command staff of the Department; reviews reports of departmental activities submitted by subordinate officers; determines policies and procedures for the operation of the Department; has the responsibility to hire, discipline and discharge personnel; may represent management in the meet and confer process.
- ❖ Serves on nationally recognized committees that deal with fire protection, homeland security and defense, and emergency medical services; develops the annual Department budget; approves all specifications for equipment; authorizes the purchase of materials and equipment by the Department; and performs other duties for training purposes or to meet technological changes or emergencies.

DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS

The successful candidate will possess at least ten years of major command experience in an urban or suburban Fire Department or a related public safety department. A Bachelor's degree from a recognized four-year college or university in engineering, fire administration, public administration or business administration is desired. The position demands a seasoned leader with significant fire command and suppression experience; strong leadership, management and communications skills; and a demonstrated track record as a successful leader of a fast-paced organization where delegation of authority, participative management concepts and strong commitment to service prevail. In addition, the successful candidate will:

- ❖ Have a complete understanding of Incident Command Systems, regional interoperability, disaster management, challenges of Homeland Security and Weapons of Mass Destruction issues, and Hazardous Material response tactics.
- ❖ Demonstrate a thorough knowledge of Emergency Medical Services delivery methods.
- ❖ Have extensive labor relations experience, advanced budget and fiscal management skills, and sound strategic planning abilities.
- ❖ Have sensitivity to and understanding of the political and public process, the ability to speak effectively before official and citizen groups, and the willingness to meet with and collaborate effectively with personnel, employee and labor groups, community leaders, and residents in an open, honest, and constructive manner.
- ❖ Have the ability to clearly articulate a vision and obtain the support of stakeholders both inside and outside of the organization to achieve agreed-upon goals.

HOW TO APPLY

Electronic submittals are required. Interested candidates should immediately submit a resume, cover letter, and three work-related references (include name, job title, affiliation, and telephone number) to:

Robin Kramer, Chief of Staff
Office of Mayor Antonio R. Villaraigosa
City of Los Angeles
c/o Rebecca Verdolino
Rebecca.Verdolino@Lacity.org

The filing period may close anytime on or after **Friday, July 31, 2009**. Only the most qualified candidates will be invited to the next phase of the selection process, which is an interview.

The City of Los Angeles is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer