



UFLAC Overwhelmingly Supports MOU #23 Amendments

Statement from UFLAC President Freddy Escobar

For more than 12 months, the coronavirus has ravaged our country and devastated millions of American families. The City of Los Angeles has been at the epicenter of this destruction, and our LAFD Firefighters and Paramedics have been on the frontlines every step of the way. This global pandemic has impacted every Angeleno in our city – including our United Firefighters of Los Angeles City (UFLAC) Local 112 Fire Family as two of our young firefighters lost their lives in 2020 due to job related coronavirus.

With tens of millions of newly unemployed Americans and cities everywhere struggling to maintain basic services, I'm proud to say that our LAFD Firefighters have stepped up to do our part to keep city services afloat and protect our fellow city employees.

This week, more than 92% of our firefighters and paramedics voted to restructure our contract in order to save the City of Los Angeles tens of millions of dollars over the next few years. This amended contract will provide the city with desperately needed economic relief and, most importantly, it will ensure that there will not be any cuts in in the Los Angeles Fire Department as we serve the people of our great city.

Even before the coronavirus hit Los Angeles, LAFD Firefighters and Paramedics responded to nearly 500,000 emergency calls for service each year ranging from structure fires to car accidents, hazardous waste spills, emergency medical calls, and so much more. The impact of the coronavirus on top of our other everyday emergencies has made the past year the most challenging – and dangerous – time for all of us in the fire service. For that reason, it was essential to our firefighters that any new agreement would provide guaranteed language to maintain our current firefighter and paramedic staffing levels, trucks, engines, and ambulances. This amended MOU will ensure that our LAFD first responders will be able to continue to provide the first-class fire protection and emergency medical care that the people of Los Angeles expect and deserve 24-hours a day, 7-days a week.

In hard times, good people pull together and protect one another. Nobody is immune to the devastation of this pandemic. This is our city and we are truly all in this together. Today LAFD Firefighters and Paramedics have stepped up once again to protect our city and the families that we serve, from Watts to Granada Hills to Boyle Heights and everywhere in between.

**Freddy Escobar, President
United Firefighters of Los Angeles City Local 112**