



## CITY OF COMPTON

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **CITY RELEASES STATEMENT ON COMPETITIVE MEASURES FOR COMPTON FIREFIGHTERS**

*---City of Compton Continues Efforts to Strengthen Its Fire Department ----*

Compton, CA – As many fire departments across the country are requiring an emergency medical technician (EMT) certification for firefighter applicants and more than 90% of departments will require this certification after hire, the Compton Fire Department is employing measures to increase the number of staff that are specifically certified for emergency medical related responses.

The Compton Fire Department has been working closely with the Los Angeles County EMS Agency and with El Camino College Compton Center for staff certifications and classes. In addition, although it is not a State of California requirement, the City of Compton is making efforts to work with the Firefighters Union to make the EMT certification a requirement for all firefighters.

"We're working internally with the City of Compton, the Fire Union, and partnering agencies to ensure that all firefighters are trained and certified to provide medical services, as the demand for such services increases. Increasing the number of certified EMT's has been a priority for us for some time and we are excited to have a number of initiatives in place toward this goal," Fire Chief Jon Thompson said.

In addition to its certification enhancements, the Compton Fire Department is employing the following quality assurance protocols and competitive measures:

- The employment of a full time Fire Captain (EMS Coordinator) whose responsibilities include monitoring medical licenses and certificates/cards of suppression and EMS personnel.
- Recommendations for a Quality Improvement Program to be led by a newly hired Nurse Educator
- New department policy that no vehicle will be staffed with fewer than two certified EMT's

- New internal policy that all EMS Personnel will be certified through Los Angeles County EMS Agency

“Our focus now is to continue to work with the Fire Department and the Firefighters Union to ensure that our department is competitive and that the certification requirements for staffed firefighters are reflective of the changing needs of the Compton community,” said Mayor Aja Brown.

**About the City of Compton** - The City of Compton, California covers approximately 10.2 square miles in Los Angeles County, California situated south of downtown Los Angeles. With a current population of almost 100,000 citizens, Compton is known as the “Hub City” because of its unique position in almost the exact geographical center of Los Angeles County, Compton is strategically located along the Alameda Corridor, a passageway of 25 percent of all U.S. waterborne international trade. Compton is rapidly emerging as a large industrial center in Los Angeles County for transit and distribution, business services, high technology, home and lifestyle products, metals, financial services, and textile manufacturing.

**About Compton Fire Department** - The mission of the Compton Fire Department is to create a safe, self-reliant and viable community through prompt and efficient emergency services; effective fire prevention and environmental control; and community outreach and training in fire safety, emergency medical treatment, and disaster preparedness.

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