



City of Emeryville

CALIFORNIA

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 19, 2019
TO: Christine Daniel, City Manager
FROM: Lisa Lopez, Human Resources Director
SUBJECT: **Approval by The City Council Of The City Of Emeryville As Disaster Council Of The City Of Emeryville Adopting The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program Guidelines and Code of Conduct and Authorizing the March 26, 2019 through April 11, 2019 CERT Academy Training**

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the City Council of the City of Emeryville as Disaster Council of the City of Emeryville approve the attached Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program Guidelines and Code of Conduct under the City's Disaster Service Worker Volunteer Program in compliance with the California Emergency Services Act (ESA), Government Code 8585.5 and with the Disaster Service Worker Volunteer Program Regulations, California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 19, §2570-2573.3 and the March 26, 2019 through April 11, 2019 CERT Training Academy.

BACKGROUND

The City's Disaster Service Worker (DSW) Volunteer Program is designed to coordinate and manage volunteer efforts which support services provided to the community during an emergency or disaster.

The history of the Disaster Worker Volunteer Program dates back to World War II. The War Powers Act of 1943 created the California War Council in response to concerns of military action along the Pacific border of the United States. Local War Councils recruited civilian volunteers and provided Workmen's [sic] Compensation benefits to volunteers to help with the volunteer recruitment. Legislation required that volunteers be registered with a local War Council certified by the State. War Councils were later renamed Disaster Councils.

The City passed a resolution establishing a Disaster Service Worker Volunteer Program on March 15, 1948. Subsequently, the City of Emeryville War Council was established consistent with the California Emergency Services Act, and accredited by the California Office of Emergency Services in 1949. On July 11, 2017, the City's Emergency Plan Ordinance was updated and the War Council was renamed the Disaster Council as part of the update (Chapter 2 of Title 4 of the Emeryville Municipal Code).

The purpose of the Disaster Council is to review and approve emergency plans, mutual aid plans, and agreements related to emergency management.

In the event of a major disaster, the City will need to look to volunteers for support and assistance during an emergency or disaster. State legislation provides for workers' compensation benefits for these volunteers (and limited immunity from liability) if the volunteers are registered as Disaster Service Workers with a local agency and are performing eligible disaster service worker activities, and that local agency has been accredited by the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services as an Accredited Disaster Council.

Eligible Disaster Service Worker activities means all activities (including training) authorized by and carried on pursuant to the California Emergency Services Act. Eligible Disaster Service Worker activities must be approved and documented by the Accredited Disaster Council or authorized registering entity. Any training must be authorized in advance.

DISCUSSION

The City is interested in resurrecting the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program. Volunteers who wish to be part of the City's CERT program upon completion of their training, will be registered as Disaster Service Workers under Government Code §3101 and Labor Code §3211.92(a). The City wishes to establish program guidelines and a code of conduct for the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program as well as obtain approval for the upcoming CERT Academy that is being held from March 26, 2019 through April 11, 2019 (6 sessions, 2x a week for three weeks).

FISCAL IMPACT

There are no fiscal impacts to the City's budget.

STAFF COMMUNICATION WITH THE PUBLIC

None

CONCLUSION

Staff is requesting approval of the City's CERT Program Guidelines and Code of Conduct and CERT Academy training scheduled for March 26, 2019 through April 11, 2019.

PREPARED BY: Lisa Lopez, Human Resources Director
Lori Elefant, Management Analyst

APPROVED AND FORWARDED TO THE CITY COUNCIL/DISASTER COUNCIL



Christine Daniel, City Manager

ATTACHMENTS

- CERT Program Guidelines
- CERT Program Code of Conduct
- Flyer for March – April 2019 CERT Academy