



# City of Emeryville

CALIFORNIA

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** April 6, 2021  
**TO:** Christine Daniel, City Manager  
**FROM:** Trish Raver, Human Resources Director  
**SUBJECT:** **Approval by The City Council / Disaster Council Of The City Of Emeryville Authorizing the April 1, 2021 through June 3, 2021 CERT Academy Training**

### RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the City Council/Disaster Council authorize the April 1, 2021 through June 3, 2021 Virtual CERT Academy Training with a “hands on” portion to be scheduled in early 2022, under the City’s Disaster Service Worker Volunteer Program in compliance with the California Emergency Services Act (ESA), Government Code 8585.5 and within the Disaster Service Worker Volunteer Program Regulations, California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 19, §2570-2573.3.

### 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 as part of that update the War Council was renamed the Disaster Council.

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. 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 out 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 resurrected its Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program in 2019. The Emeryville CERT team is comprised of volunteers, who wish to be part of the City's CERT program. Upon completion of their training, these individuals are registered as Disaster Service Workers under Government Code §3101 and Labor Code §3211.92(a).

In 2019, the City hosted its first CERT Academy in a decade. Upon completion of their training, approximately 15 individuals registered with the City as Disaster Service Workers under the City's CERT Team. In an effort to grow the Emeryville CERT Team, the City will be sponsoring a second CERT Academy beginning April 1, 2021. Participants will receive virtual classroom training through the University of Utah's online CERT Academy program. Participants will need to participate in a "hands on" portion of the training where their skills learned can be assessed before they can become certified CERT Team members. The "hands on" portion of the academy is scheduled to take place in early 2022 provided that COVID-19 restrictions are eased by that time.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

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

## **STAFF COMMUNICATION WITH THE PUBLIC**

None

## **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

None

## **CONCLUSION**

Staff is requesting approval of the City's CERT Academy with online training scheduled for April 1, 2021 through June 3, 2021 and the "hands on" portion of the training scheduled for early 2022.

**PREPARED BY:** Trish Raver, Human Resources Director  
Lori Elefant, Management Analyst

**APPROVED AND FORWARDED TO  
THE CITY COUNCIL / DISASTER COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EMERYVILLE:**



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Christine Daniel, City Manager

**ATTACHMENTS**

- Flyer for April through June 2021 CERT Academy