

October 11, 2023

## **MONTEBELLO FIRE DEPARTMENT AWARDED \$5.6 MILLION FOR NEW FIREFIGHTER POSITIONS**

MONTEBELLO, CA – The City of Montebello’s Fire Department has been awarded \$5.6 million dollars from the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant that will fund 15 new firefighter positions over the next three years.

The SAFER grant, offered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), was created to provide funding directly to fire departments and volunteer firefighter interest organizations to assist in increasing the number of firefighters to help communities meet industry minimum standards and attain 24-hour staffing to provide adequate protection from fire and fire-related hazards, and to fulfill traditional missions of fire departments.

“There is an immense amount of pride in Montebello that we have our own fire department,” said City of Montebello Mayor, David Torres. “As our City grows, it only makes sense that our public safety services grow with it and this SAFER grant will allow our fire department to continue delivering the most superior fire and medical services in the region.”

As one of the top 300 fire departments in the nation to be selected to receive such funding to support department needs this year, the Montebello Fire Department will utilize the \$5,650,875 grant to fund a total of 15 new, full-time firefighter positions over the next three years. During this time, the department will work to develop a sustainability plan for long-term retention and effective recruitment measures to maintain adequate staffing levels and overall increase fire and emergency medical services within the City of Montebello.

“Staffing is a top priority to better serve our residents,” said Montebello Fire Department Fire Chief, Fernando Peláez. “This award is a blessing as it will provide a great opportunity to develop innovative approaches needed for recruitment and retention, that will assist in building a vigorous structure needed to facilitate access to vital emergency services to our residents and community.

In addition to making the new positions available, these funds will assist also assist the Montebello Fire Department in developing the department’s training program so that it can fully align with the California State Fire Training.

*The City of Montebello was founded in 1920 and is located eight miles southeast of downtown Los Angeles. Its history dates back to the days of the Franciscan missionaries and today boasts a full array of services including police, fire and one of the region’s largest public transportation systems, Montebello Bus Lines. The City’s multi-cultural resident population is approximately 65,000 covering a footprint of approximately four-square miles. For more information visit [www.cityofmontebello.com](http://www.cityofmontebello.com) or follow us on Facebook and Twitter.*

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