

Approved by City Manager: 



CITY of CALABASAS
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

DATE: JULY 17, 2024

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBERS

FROM: MICHAEL DYER, PUBLIC SAFETY AND EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (CERT)
REORGANIZATION

MEETING DATE: AUGUST 14, 2024

SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION:

Receive the report on the City of Calabasas CERT team reorganization.

BACKGROUND:

The purpose of this report is to brief the City Council on staff's efforts to reorganize the City of Calabasas Community Emergency Response Team and Community Emergency Response Program (CERP) for more efficient and effective operations.

The Calabasas CERT Program was developed in 1992 to create a well-trained civilian emergency volunteer force. These teams are vital for disaster situations when the number and scope of incidents clearly overwhelm conventional emergency services.

To enhance the City's emergency response, the CERP was also created in 2005 to train and organize volunteer residents of the City to be better prepared to cope with and recover from an emergency or disaster situation and also to support the

City's emergency radio communication between the community and the City's Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

CERT training provides community self-sufficiency through the development of multi-functional response teams that can act as an adjunct to local emergency services during major disasters. In the initial phases of a disaster, CERT Members, empowered by this unique training, can assemble as a Community Emergency Response Team or, under the direction of City Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness officials, can perform as individual leaders, directing untrained volunteers while in the field or at the EOC. Reorganization of the Calabasas CERT Program will allow this program to operate more effectively and efficiently.

As part of the CERT reorganization process, all CERP members will be absorbed into the new Calabasas CERT Communications Team upon verification of CERT qualifications. CERP team members are capable of providing vetted, critical emergency information to the EOC and the community.

STATUS

New CERT bylaws have been developed by staff, approved by the Public Safety Commission (PSC) and reviewed by the City Attorney that clarify roles, responsibilities, and requirements to become a member and a leader in the CERT Program. The new CERT Program bylaws also aligns the Calabasas CERT Program with national CERT guidance.

The new CERT organization will enhance participation, management and oversight of the program. CERT volunteers may be utilized to maintain and staff Emergency Caches, assist with vital EOC functions and enhance community preparedness.

FISCAL IMPACT/SOURCE OF FUNDING:

Currently, there is no assigned budget for the CERT program. An initial estimate of \$2,000 to purchase shirts and hats will be needed. In the near future, a formal physical assessment of the Emergency Caches will be performed with recommendations for repair or replacement of some caches.

REQUESTED ACTION: Receive and file this report and continue to support the City of Calabasas CERT program.