

# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON  
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

September 17, 2025

Ms. Kristin Crowley



Dear Ms. Crowley:

In January 2025, Los Angeles County, California was devastated by a number of wildfires, including the Palisades fire, which caused billions of dollars in damage to homes and businesses and resulted in loss of life.<sup>1</sup> Public reports have since raised questions about Los Angeles County wildfire preparations and the response to the January 2025 wildfires, including the Palisades fire. For example, reports have alleged that, despite repeated pleas for additional resources and personnel, Los Angeles slashed the Los Angeles Fire Department's (LAFD) operational budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 by nearly \$18 million and 61 positions.<sup>2</sup> Further, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's July 2025 preliminary report found issues with critical water systems necessary for fire suppression, such as fire hydrants losing pressure.<sup>3</sup>

Pursuant to Senate Resolution 94 (119th Cong.), the United States Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations (the "Subcommittee") is conducting a review of the Los Angeles County wildfire mitigation and suppression efforts, including the response to the Palisades fire. In order to assist the Subcommittee in its review please provide the following information and records. Unless otherwise stated, the period of time for this request shall be February 1, 2022, to present.

1. All records referring or relating to the Palisades fire and response between December 28, 2024, and present.

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<sup>1</sup> Shiyun Li and William Yu, Economic Impact of Los Angeles Wildfires, UCLA Anderson School of Management, Mar. 3, 2025, available at <https://www.anderson.ucla.edu/about/centers/ucla-anderson-forecast/economic-impact-los-angeles-wildfires>; Nadine Yousif, More than 400 indirect deaths linked to LA wildfires, study suggests, BBC, Aug. 6, 2025, available at <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cx29wjg3vz2o>.

<sup>2</sup> Laura Romero, Los Angeles cut \$17.5M from fire department budget months before deadly fires, ABC11, Jan. 9, 2025, available at <https://abc11.com/post/los-angeles-cut-175m-fire-department-budget-months-before-palisades-signed-mayor-karen-bass/15782731/>; Edward Helmore, Kristin Crowley: the LA fire chief publicly criticizing the city's budget cuts, The Guardian, Jan. 12, 2025, available at <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/jan/12/who-is-kristin-crowley-la-fire-chief>.

<sup>3</sup> Los Angeles Department of Water & Power, LADWP Palisades Fire Water System Preliminary Report, July 3, 2025, available at <https://www.ladwpnews.com/ladwp-palisades-fire-water-system-preliminary-report-july-3-2025/>.

2. All records referring or relating to wildfire prevention, mitigation, and response measures, including but not limited to:
  - a. funding and budget requests;
  - b. training;
  - c. fire prevention support;
  - d. critical technology replacement;
  - e. staffing increases;
  - f. improvements to facilities and infrastructure;
  - g. the stocking of field resources;
  - h. standard operating procedures for communications during a wildfire; and
  - i. after-action reports from the Palisades fire.
3. All records referring or relating to the pre-deployment of assets and personnel for the Palisades fire, including but not limited to the staffing of LAFD's front-line fire engines, fire trucks, and paramedic ambulances, as well as the hiring and detailing of additional firefighters in anticipation of the weather event.
4. All records referring or relating to the City of Los Angeles' Prioritized Critical Hiring (hiring freeze), the existence of critical civilian vacancies, and the reduction of Overtime Variable Staffing Hours (V-Hours).
5. All records referring or relating to the International Association of Fire Fighters' study and recommendations regarding the LAFD, including report drafts.<sup>4</sup>
6. All records referring or relating to the pre-deployment of resources responding to an active weather event during your entire tenure as Fire Chief.
7. All communications referring or relating to wildfire prevention, mitigation, or suppression between you and any employee or official with the following entities:
  - a. Los Angeles Mayor's Office;
  - b. Office of the Governor of California;
  - c. LAFD;
  - d. Los Angeles Department of Water and Power; and
  - e. Any federal agency or department.
8. All records referring or relating to an after-action report for the Palisades fire. Please include documents and communications regarding how the Tyler Izen investigation and the Fire Research Safety Institute investigation influenced the contents of the after-action report.<sup>5</sup>
9. All records referring or relating to adverse employment actions you sustained in connection with the Palisades fire, including but not limited to your removal as Fire Chief on February 21, 2025.

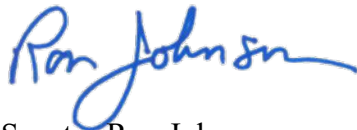
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<sup>4</sup> See Claim for Damages, Kristen Crowley, Aug. 20, 2025, on file with staff.

<sup>5</sup> See Claim for Damages, Kristen Crowley, Aug. 20, 2025, on file with staff.

Please produce this information as soon as possible, but no later than 5:00 p.m. EDT on October 1, 2025. In addition, please preserve all records<sup>6</sup> referring or relating to wildfire suppression, mitigation, or response. If you have any questions about this request, please contact Subcommittee staff at (202) 224-3721 and 202-224-0909. Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Senator Ron Johnson  
Chairman  
Permanent Subcommittee  
on Investigations



Senator Rick Scott  
Member  
Permanent Subcommittee  
on Investigations

cc: The Honorable Richard Blumenthal  
Ranking Member  
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

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<sup>6</sup> "Records" include any written, recorded, or graphic material of any kind, including letters, memoranda, reports, notes, electronic data (such as texts, emails, email attachments, and any other electronically-created or stored information), calendar entries, inter-office communications, meeting minutes, phone/voice mail or recordings/records of verbal communications, and drafts (whether or not they resulted in final documents).

# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON  
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

September 17, 2025

Mr. Ronnie Villanueva  
Interim Fire Chief  
Los Angeles Fire Department  
200 N. Main St.  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Interim Chief Villanueva:

In January 2025, Los Angeles County, California was devastated by a number of wildfires, including the Palisades fire, which caused billions of dollars in damage to homes and businesses and resulted in loss of life.<sup>1</sup> Public reports have since raised questions about Los Angeles County wildfire preparations and the response to the January 2025 wildfires, including the Palisades fire. For example, reports have alleged that, despite repeated pleas for additional resources and personnel, Los Angeles slashed the Los Angeles Fire Department's (LAFD) operational budget for Fiscal Year 2024–2025 by nearly \$18 million and 61 positions.<sup>2</sup> Further, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's July 2025 preliminary report found issues with critical water systems necessary for fire suppression, such as fire hydrants losing pressure.<sup>3</sup>

Pursuant to Senate Resolution 94 (119th Cong.), the United States Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations (the "Subcommittee") is conducting a review of the Los Angeles County wildfire mitigation and suppression efforts, including the response to the Palisades fire. In order to assist the Subcommittee in its review please provide the following information and records. Unless otherwise stated, the period of time for this request shall be February 1, 2022, to present.

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<sup>2</sup> Laura Romero, Los Angeles cut \$17.5M from fire department budget months before deadly fires, ABC11, Jan. 9, 2025, available at <https://abc11.com/post/los-angeles-cut-175m-fire-department-budget-months-before-palisades-signed-mayor-karen-bass/15782731/>; Edward Helmore, Kristin Crowley: the LA fire chief publicly criticizing the city's budget cuts, The Guardian, Jan. 12, 2025, available at <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/jan/12/who-is-kristin-crowley-la-fire-chief>.

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2. All records referring or relating to wildfire prevention, mitigation, and response measures, including but not limited to:
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  - b. training;
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  - g. the stocking of field resources;
  - h. standard operating procedures for communications during a wildfire; and
  - i. after-action reports from the Palisades fire.
3. All records referring or relating to the pre-deployment of assets and personnel for the Palisades fire, including but not limited to the staffing of LAFD's front-line fire engines, fire trucks, and paramedic ambulances, as well as the hiring and detailing of additional firefighters in anticipation of the weather event.
4. All records referring or relating to the City of Los Angeles' Prioritized Critical Hiring (hiring freeze), the existence of critical civilian vacancies, and the reduction of Overtime Variable Staffing Hours (V-Hours).
5. All records referring or relating to the International Association of Fire Fighters' study and recommendations regarding the LAFD, including report drafts.<sup>4</sup>
6. All records referring or relating to the pre-deployment of resources responding to an active weather event.
7. All communications referring or relating to wildfire prevention, mitigation, or suppression between you and any employee or official with the following entities:
  - a. Los Angeles Mayor's Office;
  - b. Office of the Governor of California;
  - c. Los Angeles Department of Water and Power; and
  - d. Any federal agency or department.
8. All records referring or relating to an after-action report for the Palisades fire. Please include documents and communications regarding how the Tyler Izen investigation and the Fire Research Safety Institute investigation influenced the contents of the after-action report.<sup>5</sup>
9. All communications between or amongst any employee, contractor, representative, or official with the LAFD referring or relating to wildfire mitigation, suppression, or

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<sup>4</sup> See Claim for Damages, Kristen Crowley, Aug. 20, 2025, on file with staff.

<sup>5</sup> See Claim for Damages, Kristen Crowley, Aug. 20, 2025, on file with staff.

response, including but not limited to all communications referring or relating to the Palisades fire and Lachman fire.

10. All communications referring or relating to wildfire mitigation, suppression, or response, including but not limited to all communications referring or relating to the Palisades fire or Lachman fire, with any employee, representative, contractor, or official from the following entities:
- a. The Los Angeles Mayor's Office;
  - b. The Office of the Governor of California;
  - c. The Los Angeles City Council;
  - d. The California Board of Fire Commissioners;
  - e. The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power; and
  - f. Any federal agency.

Please produce this information as soon as possible, but no later than 5:00 p.m. EDT on October 1, 2025. In addition, please preserve all records<sup>6</sup> referring or relating to wildfire suppression, mitigation, or response. If you have any questions about this request, please contact Subcommittee staff at 202-224-3721 or 202-224-0909. Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Senator Ron Johnson  
Chairman  
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Senator Rick Scott  
Member  
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cc: The Honorable Richard Blumenthal  
Ranking Member  
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