



ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA
MAYOR

March 21, 2012

Chief Brian Cummings
Los Angeles Fire Department
450 E. Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Chief Cummings:

I have read your letter dated March 19, 2012, citing the HIPAA as the reason to discontinue the Fire Department's long-standing practice of releasing incident and response time information.

In the absence of a written legal opinion giving your Department guidance, I believe it is our duty to provide information to the media and the public. At a time when the Los Angeles Fire Department needs more transparency – not less – I am directing you to immediately resume releasing information that provides LAFD incident specifics without violating federal law.

Very truly yours,

ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA
Mayor

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cc: Honorable Members of the City Council
The Honorable Carmen Trutanich, City Attorney
The Honorable Wendy Greuel, City Controller