



City Council

January 14, 2025
Packet Addendum #1

From: [Ann](#)
To: [Christopher Leh](#); [City Council](#)
Subject: 2025 Council Work Plan
Date: Saturday, January 11, 2025 5:39:29 PM

Dear Mayor Leh and City Council Members,

This week as you consider the 2025 Council Work Plan to address economic vitality, core services, safety, and affordable housing, please keep this in mind:

- More than 10,000 homes have been lost so far in Los Angeles because the winds haven't stopped.
- Louisville has nearly 10,000 homes (8,929 units in 2020 U.S. Census), and only 550 were lost in the Marshall Fire because the winds DID stop.

At meetings after the fire, our first responders told me that they were preparing themselves to LOSE THE ENTIRE CITY if the winds had not died down that night because they were unable to stop that dangerous, relentless fire. There cannot be a bigger threat to Louisville's economic vitality, core services, safety, and affordable housing than another wind-driven conflagration.

I've reviewed the packet materials for the 2025 Work Plan discussion. I see some specific items in the Safety plan related to general emergency response, a mention of disaster preparedness month, and an item on the WUI Code adoption. Otherwise, I don't see any mention of preparedness and mitigation in the other three priority areas.

To my knowledge, Louisville still does not have a comprehensive plan for wildfire mitigation and preparedness that summarizes risks to all sectors and outlines strategies and actions across all City divisions. Although I know progress has been made in some areas, the public only sees piecemeal actions spread across multiple entities, and sporadic communications about events.

This should be one of Council's top priorities in 2025--to give direction to City staff to develop a comprehensive wildfire protection plan--perhaps as an adjunct to Boulder County's CWPP. It should be done in partnership with the LFPD. And it should be transparent and accessible for residents. Wildfire protection should be added into "Building the Foundation" for each of the 4 areas of the 2025 workplan--understanding the risks of wildfire to our economic vitality, core services, safety, and housing, and developing projects and actions in each area.

Please do not let another year go by without Louisville having a comprehensive publicly-available plan to address our community's wildfire risk.

Ann Brennan
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From: [Tawnya Somauroo](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Work plan needs wildfire risk planning for homes and businesses
Date: Monday, January 13, 2025 10:59:03 PM

Dear City Council Members,

I am writing to ask Council to add more wildfire risk mitigation to the Council work plan. The previous risk analysis that the City performed was woefully incomplete.

In 2023, Council approved a contract with a consultant to assess wildfire risk; however, the contract was narrowly scoped and flawed. It focused exclusively on evaluating risks to city-owned property caused by other city property. The approach ignored the layered strategies recommended by expert reports following the Marshall Fire, which advocate for a combination of open space (OS) mitigation, building hardening, and defensible space creation. Instead, the contract addressed only OS mitigation.

Compounding the issue, the consultant's analysis was limited to calm weather conditions, neglecting the red flag days that drive catastrophic wildfires and are the primary concern for residents.

As a result, Louisville has yet to take meaningful steps to protect homes and businesses from wildfire risks or to address the unique challenges posed by red flag conditions.

While Council did recently passed home hardening code, because it was passed so late in the recovery it will only apply to 50 Marshall Fire rebuild homes. As a consequence, it will take decades for the home hardening code to substantially change wildfire safety risk in Louisville.

By comparison, Superior has developed a plan that addresses fire risks to all homes and commercial properties throughout the city under all conditions, including red flag days. Their approach includes OS mitigation throughout the city and hardening city buildings. They did not rely on consultants to create the risk reduction plan, instead, they looked to Mountain View Fire Rescue for advice.

In view of this, I respectfully request that Council add the following to the work plan

- **Develop a comprehensive wildfire risk reduction plan** that addresses risks to **all buildings** in Louisville, including residential neighborhoods, commercial areas, and critical infrastructure. The comprehensive wildfire risk plan should adopt the layered mitigation strategy recommended by so many expert reports including OS mitigation, structure hardening, and defensible space
- **Ensure critical city infrastructure is mitigated.** For example, the landscaping around the police station must be addressed to prevent the interruptions to emergency response that we experienced during the Marshall Fire when the police needed to evacuate the station due to vegetation burning closely around the building.

Make a plan to creating defensible space beyond the WUI. WUI code only protects buildings when winds are less than 20 mph. The red flag days that are the real concern to property owners throughout Louisville send the ember cast much further into neighborhoods, creating spot fires well beyond the traditional WUI zone.

The recent wildfires in California highlight the urgency of taking action to protect ALL our community in ALL conditions, not just City property on calm days.

Please prioritize these actions in the work plan to better protect our community and ensure that our city is prepared for future wildfire threats.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Tawnya Somauroo

Cornerstone

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