

Question: Why a Federal Grand Jury?

Answer: To Save Lives!

By Richard Lee Abrams

The City of Los Angeles has been perpetrating a massive fraud upon the public for years and Angelenos are dying as a result.

On Thursday, August 2, 2012, HUNC's PLUM Committee took a significant step towards uncovering this fraud with its motion to request the full HUNC Board to call for a **Federal Grand Jury** into the downsizing of Fire Station 82 by 75% and moving it to Van Ness and Hollywood Boulevard as well as the falsified LAFD response data which was used to cut \$200 Million from the LAFD budget.

If all the people killed by the lies told by City Hall politicians were known, Richard Ramirez and Charles Manson would be tame in comparison. But, the City's lies do their killing in secret. Because the **City keeps no records of its kill rate**, no one knows how many have died. In 2005, the City officials knew that their falsification of the City's substandard emergency responses times was killing people. Los Angeles was singled out in a May 20, 2005, USA Today article, saying:

This official deception is not unusual. **Los Angeles** is one of many cities that **routinely lie** to themselves about their true response times to medical emergencies. The result is **needless deaths**. 5-20-2005 USA Today, The Price of Just a Few Seconds Lost: People Die, By Robert Davis

After 6 six years of such lies, L.A. Council President Eric Garcetti used another whopper of a lie in early 2011 to slash another \$200 Million from the LAFD budget. As a result, the emergence response rate dropped and deaths increased.

Very sad to relate, after the two months work of its PLUM committee, HUNC President refuses to allow the PLUM Motion to call for a Federal Grand Jury to appear on the HUNC agenda. Rather she and one or two other HUNC Board members without any Brown Act meeting decided to squash the Motion. (Disclosure: article's author is on HUNC PLUM Committee.)¹

HUNC's PLUM Committee had listened to five FS 82 firemen who attended the PLUM meeting and explained the dangers, especially to the Hills. PLUM reviewed newspapers articles going back as far as May 20, 2005 in USA Today, where Marc Ecstein, M.D., LAFD Medical Director, revealed the City's deception about response times. The PLUM Committee also learned that much of the day, there are no First Responders at FS 82. About 30% of their calls are out-of-area due to the slashed LAFD budget, and thus, when an emergency arisen, they are not here.

1

Historical note: After 2006, HUNC supported the downsizing of FS 82 by 75% even though they had been advised that the response rate to the Hills would be increased. At the July 2012 HUNC Board member, a fireman from FS 82 confirmed that response rates have in fact increased due to the location of FS 82 on Hollywood Boulevard at Van Ness.

As the HUNC Board knew back in 2006, cars lining up to enter the northbound entrance onto 101 Freeway would block the fire station's exit. HUNC current Vice President and current chairman of the Safety Committee, Erik Sanjurjo, was instrumental in having HUNC approve the down-sized FS 82. According to HUNC minutes, he had been HUNC's information person about the fire department as Mr. Sanjurjo worked for Council-member La Bonge and then for other council-members. Any present HUNC Board member who played any role in downsizing FS 82 should recuse him/herself from discussing the investigation into the LAFD. Instead, HUNC's President who was on the HUNC Board the entire time has selected Mr. Sanjurjo to lead the investigation into whether he did anything wrong in influencing HUNC to support FS 82.

The FS 82 firefighters explained to HUNC'S PLUM committee that when out-of-area First Responders answer a call in the Hills, response times are longer. For example, FS 6 down in Melrose area has to drive much farther than a paramedic stationed at FS 82. Also, FS 6 does not know Live Oak from Red Oak. Why should they? What looks passable on a map may be impossible for a fire truck. The fire fighters advised the committee that the trucks get stuck and have trouble turning around. It can take 10, 15, 20 minutes to reach someone in cardiac arrest.

In the 2005 USA Today article, Dr. Ecstein revealed the fraudulent nature about LA's Emergency Response times. Los Angeles was interested in nice statistics, not saving lives. 5 Minutes is a crucial time limit to save a life and stop a fire from getting out of control. L.A.'s reporting fraudulently fast response times misled people into believing L.A.'s First Responders were reaching people within 5 minutes of a 911 call. The USA Today uncovered L.A.'s deception:

On sudden cardiac arrest calls — the truest measure of emergency medical performance — these cities have focused on the response time from the victim's point of view: How long after 911 is called does help reach the patient and deliver lifesaving care? May 20, 2005 USA Today article

Los Angeles knows that the public misses the distinction between the two time measurements. The public believes that the "5 Minutes" refers to the time between when the 911 call is placed and first aid is administered. In reality, L.A. publishes the misleading data of the time between Dispatch and arrival On Scene. The inherent fraud in using the time between Dispatch and On Scene was explained by LAFD's Ecstein.

Marc Eckstein, Los Angeles Fire Department's medical director, agrees. "If your house is on fire, do you want to know the time it takes for them to get to the scene or the time it takes to squirt water?" he says. "It's time to mitigation. Doing it the way we do it only makes pretty statistics." May 20, 2005 USA Today article

Cities are supposed to respond to emergency calls 90% of the time in less than five minutes. With every minute more than 5 minutes, the survival rate for a cardiac patient decreases 10%.

How has Los Angeles been doing since 2005? Horrible! Following are the actual response rates under 5 minutes between Dispatch and On Scene. (Data from Fix The City, Inc.)

Year	Real L.A. <u>Response</u>	
2007	64.94%	
2008	61.64%	
2009	60.52%	
2010	59.75%	misrepresented by LAFD as 78%
2011	58.13%	
2012	57.05%	first 3 months

The response rate has been steadily deteriorating since 2007. However, using the LAFD raw data on the time between Dispatch and On Scene understates the problem for another reason. The On Scene button can be pushed as much as one minute before the paramedics or firemen reach the Scene. (Data from Fix The City, Inc.)

Year	L.A. Response Rate <u>If On Scene Pushed Early</u>	
2007	42.32%	
2008	38.49%	
2009	37.81%	
2010	37.11%	Misrepresented by LAFD as 78%
2011	34.97%	
2012	33.79%	first 3 months

Thus, the actual response rate in 2010 was somewhere between 59.75% and 37.11%. That means between the time the LAFD Dispatches a unit until it reaches the address within 5 minutes between 60% and 37% of the time and not 78% of the time. Angelenos need a team of forensic investigators from a Federal Grand Jury to obtain all the raw data from the LAFD and to conduct the interrogations under penalty of perjury to ascertain the actual response rates but more importantly, to uncover the persons responsible for the deliberately false information. It is highly unlikely the LAFD decided all by its lonesome to publish false data after the 2005 USA Today article.

No one can calculate the time it takes to actually reach a person dying from a medical emergency because the Mayor, the City Council and the LAFD refuses to release the information. Yes, the time to reach a patient is so atrocious that Villaraigosa, Garcetti, and the LAFD Officials refuse to release the raw data.

We do know that due to a decrepit 911 system, that about 2 minutes expires between the 911 call and Dispatch – which means the paramedics seldom are On Scene within 5 minutes and almost never reach a patient within 5 minutes of the 911 call.

Whom Would a Federal Grand Jury Target?

We may already surmise that one target of the Federal Grand Jury probe would be ex-Council President Eric Garcetti. He knew about the 2005 USA Today article's saying that LA's lies about its emergency response data were causing needless deaths. As his own April 25, 2006 press release admits, Councilman Garcetti is responsible for the 75% down-sizing of FS 82. Councilmember Garcetti is responsible for the relocating of FS 82 from the Florentine Gardens site west of the 101 Freeway to Van Ness and Hollywood Boulevard and increasing the response time to the Hills.

The raw data, which was obtained by Fix The City, Inc., reveals a lethally slow response rate which was becoming worst and worst each year. Faced the mounting deaths, in 2011 Council President Eric Garcetti pushed through another \$200 Million cut in the LAFD budget.

On January 12, 2011, the LAFD released a report saying that based on the data of response times between 2007 and 2010, Council President Eric Garcetti could cut an additional \$200 million from the LAFD budget. They reported that in 2010, the crucial 5 minute response time was satisfied 78% of the time. As shown above, the actual rate was between 59.75% and 37.11% depending on how many times the On Scene button was pushed early. [After the \$200 Million reduction in LAFD budget, response times became even longer and the death rate had to increase.]

The fraud was intentional. When the falsified responses times were made public by two private citizens, the LAFD admitted that it had been **intentionally** using the response rate under 6 minutes as under 5 minutes.

What was our illustrious councilmember Tom LaBonge and his erstwhile field deputy Erik Sanjurjo doing to protect the people living in the Hills from this danger to our lives? They supported the 75% downing of FS 82 which is the primary fire station for the Hollywood Hills from Beachwood Canyon over to Fern Dale. Did they tell anyone of the false response data which USA Today had uncovered? No. Did Councilman LaBonge call for an investigation? No. Did they assured us that everything would be OK? Yes. Look at the old HUNC minutes.

After the 2012 revelation of the years of falsified response data and TV channels and newspapers began reporting the frauds, the LAFD was told to investigate the matter. The LAFD produced more false data. The Mayor had appointed Jeff Godown to oversee the department's investigation and after the LAFD upper echelon released its new data, Jeff Godown said that the data was unreliable. (4 NBC Southern California May 15, 2012, by Gordon Tokumatsu and Bill French)

"If we can't get the response times right, we're going to have issues, as far as credibility," said newly-appointed statistics expert Jeff Godown, speaking to the Los Angeles Fire Commission on Tuesday. **4 NBC Southern California** May 15, 2012

When Jeff Godown told the public that the LAFD still was setting forth incorrect response times, the Fire Commissioners were incensed that they had been deprived of the opportunity to sanitize and re-write Godown's report before the public saw it. Fire Dept. Consultant: Scrap Response-time Numbers. KNBC, by John North, May 15, 2012

Soon thereafter, Jeff Godown decided that it would be nicer to work in San Francisco. Tell the truth, lose a job.

So what do we now have? More false data, a cover-up by the same Mayor, by the same councilmembers and by the LAFD officials implicated in the years of falsifications and deaths of untold numbers of Angelenos, and by a few HUNC Board members.

The real life villains at the LAFD are presently doing another look-see at the statistics and we know that they will find that only a few innocent errors happened – no one to blame – no one harmed (as long as burned, maimed and dead people are shoved into the background and not counted.) The Mayor and his best buds like mayor wannabe Eric Garcetti will again declare that LA has some of the best responses times in the nation.

A Federal Grand Jury, however, has the power to call in the lower level LAFD management and interrogate them. When the Fire Chief questions subordinates about what they will say publicly, and they tell the truth about the intentional falsification of data by superiors, they're out of the job. Just ask Mr. Godown – gone within 3 months because he refused to participate in the cover-up.

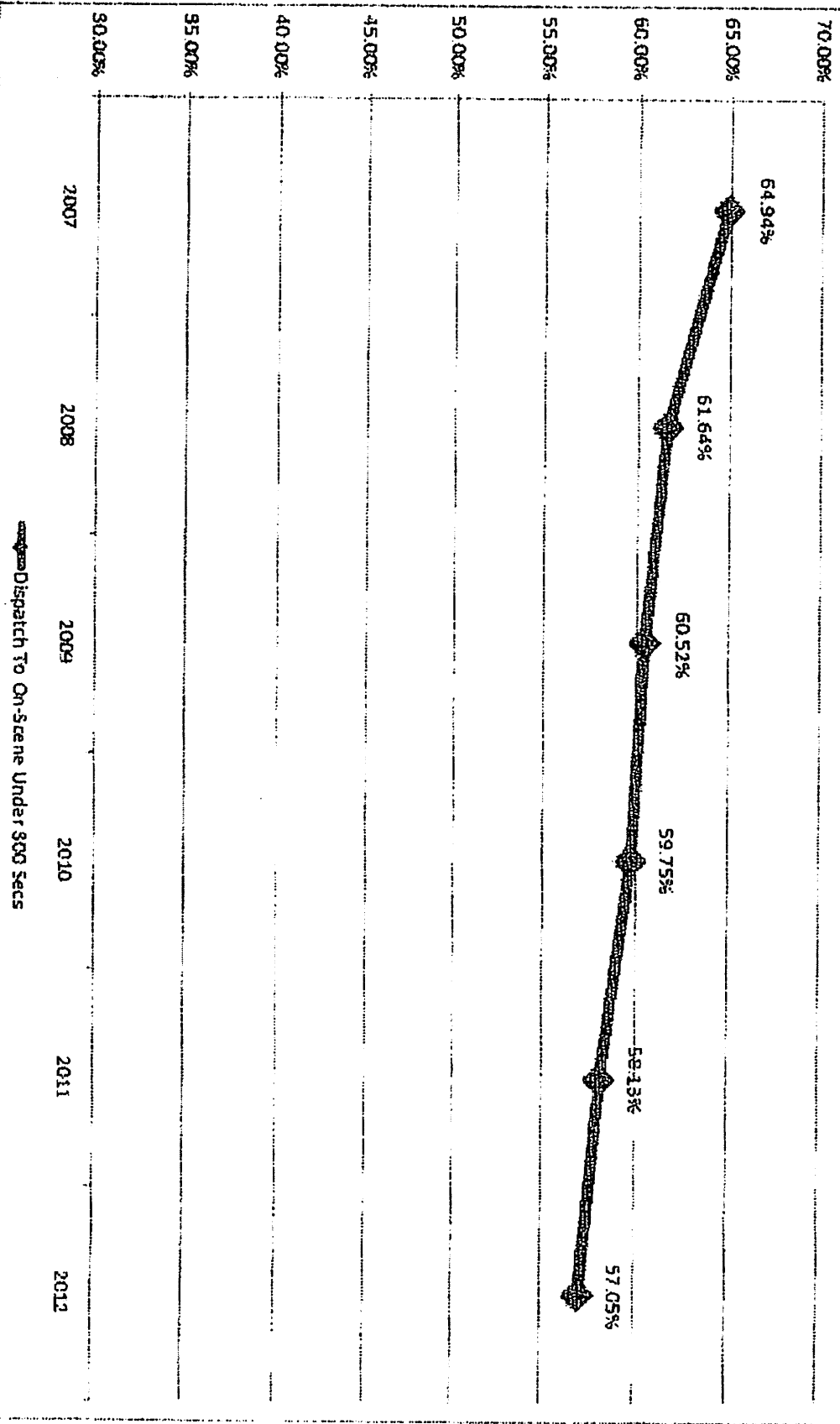
When a Federal Grand Jury asks a question and you lie, you go to prison just like **Martha Stewart**. Thus, people tend to tell the truth to a Federal Grand Jury. That's why everyone from the Mayor and councilman Garcetti and some on HUNC's Board of Directors are trying to derail the call for a Federal Grand Jury.

The Martha Stewart Rule – that is the main reason we need a Federal Grand Jury investigation into the years of falsification of the fire data – and the hundreds of millions of dollars of gifts that Garcetti, Wesson, LaBonge, Villaraigosa, et alia were giving to developers at the same time the First Responders' times were becoming worse and more people were dying. Interestingly, while Council President Garcetti was cutting \$200 Million from the fire department budget in 2011, he and his cohorts were giving billionaire Eli Broad \$52 Million for a garage next to his art museum and Council President Garcetti and his cohorts were giving millions upon millions of dollars to CIM Group.

Angelenos paid for those millions of dollars of gifts with their lives. The least we owe the dead is a Federal Grand Jury Investigation.

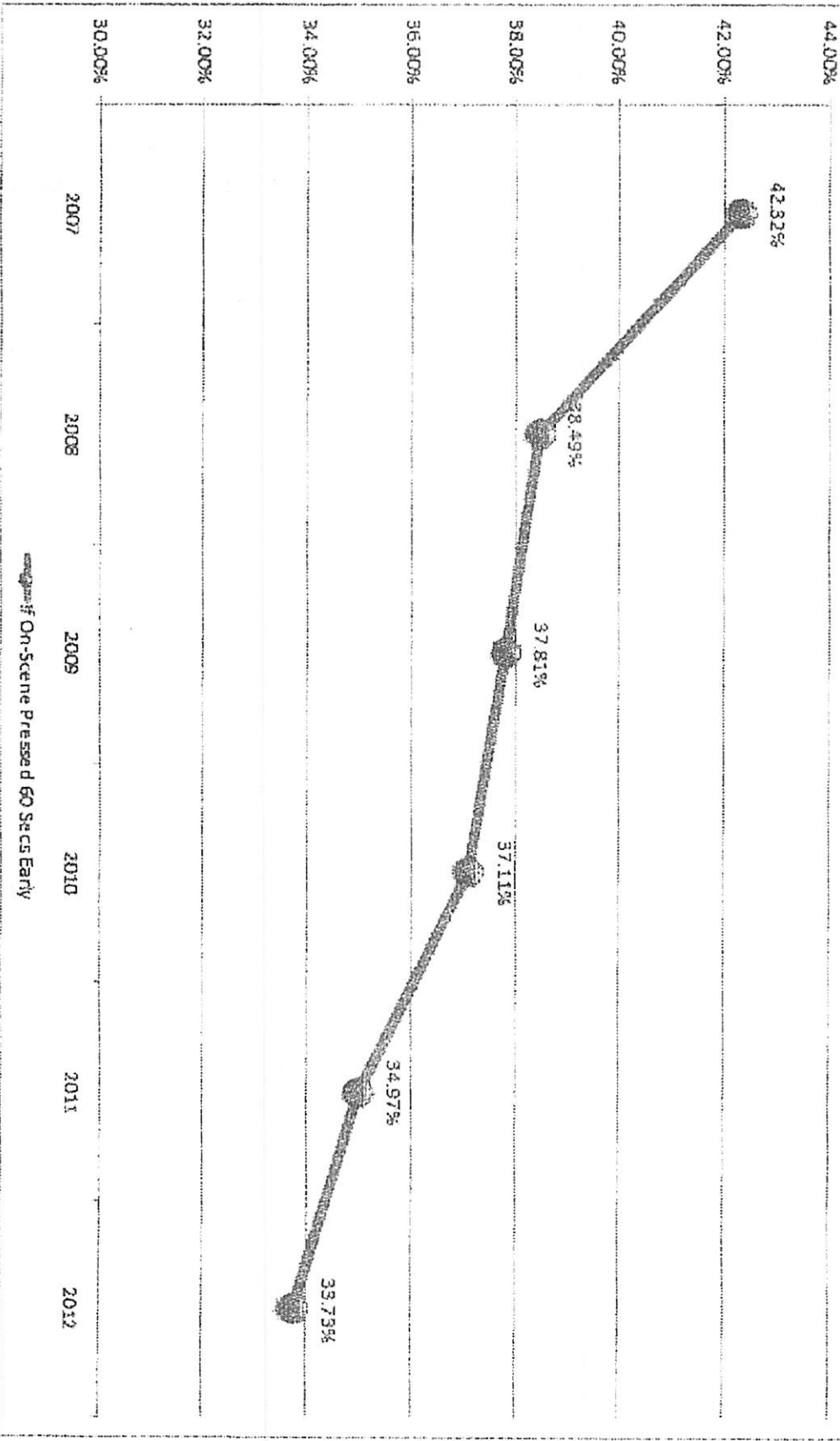
August 19, 2012

Dispatch To On-Scene Pct Under 300 Secs



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Legend: On-Scene Pressed 60 Secs Early