

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations, or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state, or federal government body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council; and

WHEREAS, there has been a surge in thefts of copper, brass, and other metals from various sources, including street lights, tombstones, fire hydrants, and transit rail lines; and

WHEREAS, many of these thefts are part of organized retail theft rings that use social media to coordinate their activities and hit multiple locations in short periods; and

WHEREAS, these thefts have resulted in substantial costs for cities and agencies—such as the California Department of Transportation (CalTrans) spending over \$24 million in the past four years to repair damaged infrastructure and address vandalism; and

WHEREAS, the theft of copper wire from street lights has left some neighborhoods in the dark for extended periods of time, raising safety concerns; and

WHEREAS, some recycling centers and scrap yards have been implicated in receiving and reselling stolen metals, such as when the Los Angeles Police Department recovered \$46,000 in stolen copper and aluminum from a single recycling center in the San Fernando Valley; and

WHEREAS, currently pending before in the State Assembly, is AB 476 (González), which proposes new regulations for junk dealers and recyclers dealing with nonferrous metals; and

WHEREAS, the bill would impose new requirements on junk dealers and recyclers purchasing nonferrous metals, including a requirement to obtain proof of ownership when purchasing nonferrous metals; and

WHEREAS, AB 476 would prohibit junk dealers and recyclers from purchasing nonferrous metals from individuals under 18 years of age; and

WHEREAS, the bill would further prohibit the sale of scrap metal copper by individuals without a valid license;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2025-2026 State Legislative Program support of AB 476 (González), which would regulate the purchase and sale of nonferrous metals by junk dealers and recyclers, including requirements for recordkeeping and restrictions on who can sell these metals to such businesses.

PRESENTED BY

MONICA RODRIGUEZ
Councilwoman, 7th District

SECONDED BY:

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