

BB

PUBLIC WORKS

MOTION

On February 26, 2024, Council adopted CF 24-0079 to create a Copper Wire Task Force to address the rampant theft of copper wiring from city street lights. Since that time, the Los Angeles Police Department has modified the task force to become the Heavy Metal Task Force (HMTF) due to the theft of items beyond copper wire from city street lights. The HMTF has conducted numerous operations that have resulted in over 80 arrests.

During many arrests, suspects are in possession of substantial amounts of copper wire. However, because copper wiring from city street lights is so similar to wiring used in homes and businesses, it is extremely difficult to determine the provenance of the stolen wire.

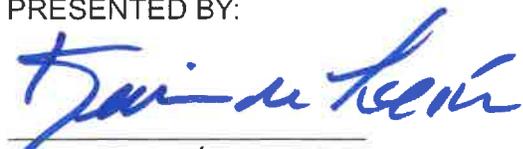
Currently, copper wire installed in city street lighting systems is not marked with any identifying branding, etching, or labeling to identify it as being property of the City of Los Angeles. Developing specifications for properly showing this wire as owned by the city and requiring private entities who work on city street light systems to exclusively use this branded wire can help combat the copper wire theft problem by making it easier to determine who is illegally in possession of city property.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Bureau of Street Lighting be instructed to develop specifications for the branding, etching, and/or labeling of copper wire that is used in Bureau of Street Lighting systems.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Bureau of Street Lighting, in coordination with the Bureau of Engineering, be instructed to require that any contractor installing or replacing copper wire in city street lighting systems use wire that is branded, etched, and/or labeled consistent with the aforementioned technical specifications developed by the Bureau of Street Lighting.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Bureau of Street Lighting be instructed to issue a Request for Qualifications to solicit proposals for vendors to brand, etch, and/or label copper wire to be installed by the Bureau of Street Lighting.

PRESENTED BY:



KEVIN DE LEÓN
Councilmember, 14th District



TRACI PARK
Councilmember, 11th District

SECONDED BY:



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