

MOTION

PUBLIC WORKS

A Bureau of Street Lighting (BSL) report dated April 19, 2022 was released outlining the dramatic increase in the number and frequency of copper wire theft from the City's street lighting network. The damage as a result of these increases has had a profound effect on the resources needed to address the Bureau of Street Lighting's attempt to keep pace with the growing number of street light outages throughout Los Angeles.

The pace in which street lights are being damaged and rendered inoperable for long periods of time is not sustainable. Along with community lighting concerns, a variety of pole attachments are also affected as a result of these outages. So much so that private companies with pole attachments have begun offering monetary rewards for information leading to the arrest of individuals responsible for stealing copper wire across the Los Angeles area. This negatively impacts communities in a variety of ways. While resources have and continue to be allocated to assist BSL in repairing and fortifying our street lighting network, these resources will not maximize our efforts without the necessary enforcement and prosecution of these crimes.

In the report, the bureau briefly addressed enforcement efforts such as exploring the possible use of GPS trackers and other technologies, such as the Fully Connected Smart Lighting Network Strategy and stated the department would report back in the future. It's vital to the success of the City's street lighting repair and restoration efforts that enforcement and prosecution of these crimes be prioritized and pursued to the fullest extent possible.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Los Angeles Police Department and the Bureau of Street Lighting be directed to report to the Council on the enforcement strategies that are underway and/or in consideration in support of the City's efforts to fortify the street lighting network.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Office of the City Attorney be requested to report to the Council with an overview of prosecution efforts related to crimes committed against the City's street lighting network.

PRESENTED BY


JOHN S. LEE
Councilmember, 12th District

SECONDED BY



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