

MOTION

Street lighting is both a quality of life and public safety measure, reducing crimes by enhancing night time visibility and making our City safer to navigate after sundown. Over the past ten years, the City has seen increasing incidents of vandalism against its streetlight network which have resulted in widespread outages and extended the average repair time to restore lighting. The Bureau of Street Lighting is responsible for managing the City's network of 223,000 streetlights and has been exploring innovative ways to harden and safeguard the City's street lighting infrastructure in response to the rise in vandalism against streetlights.

In previous reports to the Council, the Bureau of Street Lighting has stated that it is piloting the use of solar-powered streetlights that would reduce the Bureau's need for copper wire and included the use of solar-powered lighting in its ten-year plan to address the increase in streetlight vandalism (C.F. 22-0600-S56). The use of solar-powered lights could reduce the costs to power the City's expansive streetlight network and minimize the impacts of vandalism due to copper wire and power theft, providing more reliability to the network.

Aside from the safety and reliability benefits that solar-powered lighting can provide, they also reduce electricity consumption and would represent significant investments in clean and green technology. As the Bureau of Street Lighting is responding to a backlog of lighting outages, it should explore the possibility of replacing existing lighting with solar-powered lighting when required to conduct repairs to lighting infrastructure in order to maximize opportunities to deploy green technology and eliminate possible inefficiencies.

The Department of Recreation and Parks currently uses solar lighting in various parks and facilities and has been very successful in operations. The Bureau of Street Lighting should consider utilizing similar technology as a long-term replacement to move street lights to all solar, adding to our climate change goals and ensuring reliability not subject to the whims and activities of copper thieves.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Bureau of Street Lighting be instructed to report on the feasibility of installing solar-powered lighting in streetlights when responding to lighting outages due to copper wire and power theft incidents or other maintenance issues

I FURTHER MOVE that the Bureau of Street Lighting be instructed to report on the feasibility of moving to mandatory solar-powered lighting in streetlights where feasible throughout the City.

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