

MOTION

As electric vehicles (EVs) become more common on our City streets, the Los Angeles Fire Department faces a new challenge in responding to incidents with these vehicles. EV fires differ from traditional internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicle fires due to the properties of lithium-ion batteries.

One of the difficulties in handling EV fires is the process of thermal runaway, a chemical process that is not as easily extinguished as a gasoline fire in part because it doesn't require oxygen. This results in sustained high-temperature fires that are difficult to extinguish, prone to re-ignition, and sometimes take hours or even days to be completely extinguished.

Another complication is the location and design of EV batteries. Encased in protective structures and often mounted beneath the vehicle, EV batteries are difficult to access with conventional firefighting equipment and limit firefighters' ability to target the source of the fire. Additionally, EV fires often release toxic gases that pose health risks to responders and may require the use of self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA).

As EV usage continues to rise, the Los Angeles Fire Department must take proactive steps to ensure that they are best equipped to handle these incidents. This includes not only acquiring the right tools, but also creating training materials for members of the Department.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Fire Department report back with an assessment of equipment needed to mitigate electric vehicle (EVs) fires. This report should include the following information:

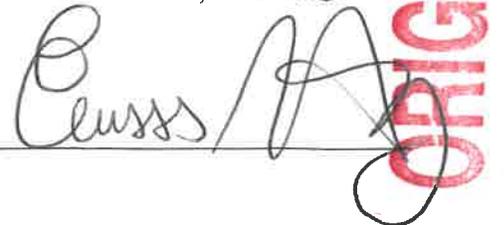
- Tools and equipment the Department currently has to address EV fires; and
- Additional tools or resources, with associated costs, needed to enhance the Department's capability to manage EV fires;

I FURTHER MOVE that the Fire Department report back with a training program that will help prepare Department personnel handle EV fires. This report should also include response protocols for EV fires that may differ from internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicle fire responses.

PRESENTED BY:


MONICA RODRIGUEZ
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SECONDED BY:



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