

MOTION

An essential duty of local government is to maintain the space known as the public right-of-way. Consisting largely of sidewalks, streets, and alleyways, the public right-of-way is the public space in which pedestrians, cyclists, and vehicles have the right to proceed. The City of Los Angeles maintains these spaces in many ways, such as paving streets, repairing potholes, trimming street trees, emptying litter bins, and addressing encampments. These and other maintenance activities are intended to help make the streets and sidewalks Angelenos use every day safe and passable.

However, far too often, businesses and individuals are choosing to illegally dump garbage, debris, and other harmful substances in the City’s public right-of-way. In certain parts of the City, piles of waste and debris are becoming increasingly common. Illegal dumping is a major contributor to urban blight, but the impact on local communities does not stop there. Illegal dumping also creates serious public safety hazards, public health risks, and environmental damage.

Recently, my district saw an egregious example of illegal dumping. On the dead-end side of the road off the 118 Freeway Desoto offramp, parts of toilets, nails, wood and other construction debris littered the road. It took the Bureau of Sanitation and the Environment, LASAN, crews parts of two days to remove the nearly 22 tonnes of illegally dumped debris from the roadway. LASAN’s Environmental Enforcement and Emergency Response Unit within the Watershed Protection Division is responsible for investigating illegal dumping and responding to hazardous waste incidents. Unfortunately, in the FY 24-25 budget, the unit was not provided the required funding to ensure cases of illegal dumping are investigated.

**I THEREFORE MOVE** that the City Council instruct LASAN, the City Administrative Officer, and any other necessary departments, to report on position authorities and identify funding for LA City Sanitation’s Watershed Protection Division to resume illegal dumping investigations.

PRESENTED BY John S. Lee  
JOHN S. LEE  
Councilmember, 12<sup>th</sup> District

SECONDED BY Katy Yundtovsky

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