

## MOTION

Extreme heat is the deadliest climate risk facing Los Angeles. It is exacerbated by the urban heat island effect, which occurs when pavement, roofs, and other surfaces absorb heat emitted from the sun, instead of reflecting it back into the atmosphere. The recent UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change "Code Red" report projects that as global temperatures rise, the frequency and intensity of heat waves will increase commensurately. Los Angeles experiences the most extreme heat waves within the state and the California Fourth Climate Change Assessment Report estimates that the temperature in the city will continue to increase by four to five degrees over the next few decades.

Extreme heat can lead to heat-related illness, such as heat exhaustion and heat strokes, and aggravate pre-existing health conditions, like diabetes and heart disease. In September 2021, Los Angeles County experienced a record-high temperature of 121 degrees, which increased emergency room visits by ten times and took seven lives. The County Department of Public Health found that since 2005, heat-related hospitalizations have greatly increased, especially in the San Fernando Valley.

Low-income communities often suffer most from extreme heat waves. Approximately 30% of Los Angeles households with an income of less than \$50,000 a year do not have an air conditioning system, and vulnerable and elderly Angelinos rely on a network of cooling centers to stay safe on the hottest days. In both Phoenix and Tucson, landlords are required to provide cooling for tenants and there is a right to a maximum 82 degree indoor temperature, while Los Angeles codes have no such requirement. Workers also face increasing dangerous exposure to heat exhaustion which diminishes productivity and jeopardizes health and safety.

Extreme heat impacts all Angelinos by stressing our City's basic infrastructure. It reduces cloud coverage and creates dry conditions that can increase the risk of wildfires. Stretches of the Metro and Metrolink network have had to shut down or reduce service to ensure heat does not cause rails to buckle or power wires to sag. Heat waves can cause our power grid to fail on the days electricity is most needed to provide life-saving cooling. Because these heat events impact such a broad swath of our economy and infrastructure, a coordinated and holistic approach is merited.

The Los Angeles Sustainable City Plan sets goals to decrease urban temperatures by at least 1.7 degrees by 2025 and 3 degrees by 2035, including strategies being implemented by multiple departments. Based on the research findings from the Los Angeles Urban Cooling Collaborative (LAUCC), led by TreePeople, one in four lives lost during heat waves could be saved if the City strategically increases tree canopy cover and installs cool surfaces.

With the rise of extreme heat events, some cities have created the position of a Chief Heat Officer (CHO). These positions raise awareness about the deadly impacts of extreme heat, set clear goals and metrics to track the impacts, collaborate across departments to develop new policies and programs, and convene stakeholder groups to work with community and public health organizations.

In order to efficiently implement effective policies targeting heat, Los Angeles should consider establishing a CHO. A CHO would set city-specific metrics and track data on urban heat and extreme heat events, convene stakeholder groups, hold departments accountable to deliver on goals, and support efforts in the Department of Public Works, Emergency Management Department, Department of Building and Safety, Fire Department, Department of Recreation and Parks, Planning Department, the Department of Water and Power, and other agencies. In addition to establishing policies, the CHO can raise awareness

about the severity of extreme heat waves through public education campaigns and partnerships with non-profit organizations.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Chief Legislative Analyst, with the assistance of the City Administrative Officer, report back within 90 days on options to establish a City of Los Angeles Chief Heat Officer (CHO). The report should describe the potential responsibilities of the CHO, recommended governance, position authority, and annual budget. The CHO should be responsible for creating a Heat Action Plan, which at minimum should include the establishment of an early warning system, interagency emergency response plan (as described in CF#21-1167), and opportunities to reduce exposure using long-term strategies. The report should be prepared in consultation with relevant city departments and informed by non-profit organizations and community groups with expertise on extreme heat such as LAUCC members and participants in the CEMO Community Assemblies process. The report should also consider funding strategies, including opportunities for foundation or federal or state grant funding, including from the Governor's FY 21-22 budget.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Department of Water and Power report on the strategies it is taking to mitigate the impacts of extreme heat on the power system, including opportunities to expand customer-facing programs such as demand response and energy efficiency programs, and expanding the tree distribution program for eligible ratepayers.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Department of Buildings and Safety report on the feasibility of updating building codes to require that all new and existing buildings provide cooling or be cooling-ready; develop energy efficiency requirements for new and existing buildings that will reduce the load on the power sector and save customers on utility costs; and expand requirements under the cool roof ordinance to coat and treat non-roof surfaces with "cool" materials, including parking structures, and public buildings and infrastructure throughout the City.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Department of Emergency Management, with the assistance of the Department of Recreation and Parks and the Climate Emergency Mobilization Office, report on opportunities to improve the network of cooling centers, including non-traditional models for public and community partnership that engage local nonprofits and houses of worship in providing such spaces and in identifying Angelenos most vulnerable to heat.

I FURTHER MOVE that StreetsLA report on the impacts of its comprehensive Cool Streets LA program with recommendations for its expansion, particularly in the San Fernando Valley.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Department of City Planning report on strategies to expand access to cool spaces, to sustain and increase tree canopy cover, and to encourage or require access to more green spaces and shade hubs (such as "cool routes" or "safe routes to school") in neighborhoods, including progress on its Climate Action Plan.

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