

PERSONNEL, AUDITS, AND ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE REPORT relative to illegal dumping in the public right-of-way.

Recommendations for Council action:

1. RECEIVE and FILE Recommendations A and B of the March 31, 2022 Bureau of Sanitation (BOS) report, attached to the Council File, inasmuch as the positions and funding detailed in said recommendations are included in the March 31, 2022 BOS report, attached to Council File No. 22-0376.
2. APPROVE Recommendation C of the March 31, 2022 BOS report, attached to the Council File, as amended, to read:

DIRECT the BOS to reconvene the interdepartmental Illegal Dumping Working Group to be composed of members from the BOS, Bureau of Street Lighting, Los Angeles Police Department, City Attorney, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, and Department of Recreation and Parks; and, refer matters for Working Group consideration related to:

- i. Camera Enforcement
 - ii. A progressive fee/fine structure to deter illegal dumping.
 - iii. Environmental Design to deter illegal dumping.
 - iv. The use of “dummy” cameras at strategic locations throughout the City in order to deter illegal dumping.
3. APPROVE Recommendation D of the March 31, 2022 BOS report, attached to the Council File, as amended:

DIRECT the BOS to work with the City Administrative Officer (CAO) and Personnel Department to review the existing classifications and paygrades for staff currently engaged in Illegal Dumping Enforcement and report to Council with any recommended changes.

4. RECEIVE and FILE Recommendation E of the March 31, 2022 BOS report, attached to the Council File.
5. INSTRUCT the Personnel Department, with the assistance of the BOS, and Department of General Services (GSD) to report in 30 days with recommendations for quickly meeting BOS and GSDs’ hiring needs, including resources needed, to provide continuous examinations for Environmental Compliance Inspector (Class Code 4292).

Fiscal Impact Statement: None submitted by the BOS. Neither the CAO nor the Chief Legislative Analyst has completed a financial analysis of this report.

Community Impact Statement: None submitted.

(Energy, Climate Change, Environmental Justice, and River Committee waived consideration of the above matter.)

Summary:

On April 6, 2022, your Committee considered a March 31, 2022 BOS report relative to illegal dumping in the public right-of-way. According to the BOS, on May 19, 2021, the Personnel, Audits, and Animal Welfare Committee considered a March 24, 2021 Controller report relative to illegal dumping in the public right-of-way (PROW). The Controller concluded that “the health and environmental well-being of a city can be measured by the presence of trash and debris in public places.”

As illegal dumping has increased in recent years, the requests for BOS services have proportionally increased, requiring the City to increase resources into PROW cleanup efforts. The BOS addresses illegal dumping from three perspectives: eradicating the blight, educating the public, and lastly, establishing enforcement through progressive measures. The Los Angeles Administrative Code defines “illegal dumping means depositing or causing to be deposited any combustible or noncombustible rubbish or any refuse of any kind whatsoever upon or in any street, or upon any private premises in this City, or in the Los Angeles River, or in the bed of the River.

The BOS is responsible for cleaning up solid waste and abandoned items that are illegally dumped in the PROW. This department also serves as the lead agency for homeless encampment cleanups, and services approximately 5,150 public street receptacles. The BOS is also responsible for investigating illegal dumping cases, and the implementation of a citywide stormwater pollution abatement program that includes enforcement of illegal dumping and pollution runoff control laws, inspection at businesses and facilities posing a stormwater pollution runoff risk, and responding to hazardous materials emergencies.

The BOS is also charged with monitoring select areas of downtown to ensure appropriate residents and business owners comply with the City Ordinance by subscribing to adequate recycLA service. In the course of ensuring compliance, BOS inspectors also identify and report illegal dumping. In 2021, the BOS responded to 29,828 Illegal Dumping Service Requests and collected 15,203 tons of solid waste, and on average responded within five days of the initial request. While an improvement, this is still a considerable amount of time to leave unpleasant and possibly dangerous waste in the PROW. After further consideration and having provided an opportunity for public comment, the Committee moved to make a series of recommendations, as detailed above. This matter is now submitted to Council for its consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

Personnel, Audits, and Animal Welfare Committee

COUNCILMEMBER	VOTE
KORETZ:	YES
HARRIS-DAWSON:	YES
BONIN:	ABSENT

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4/6/22

-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-