

Communication from Public

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IBEW Local Union Number 11

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS, AFL-CIO

JOEL BARTON – BUSINESS MANAGER / FINANCIAL SECRETARY

April 11, 2022

Mayor Eric Garcetti
City Hall
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Mayor Garcetti:

I write to you in support of the Bureau of Street Lighting's report on Universal Broadband for Disadvantaged Communities, dated March 4th, 2022. As a steadfast partner to the City and a voice for those who work every day to build and maintain the critical infrastructure that supports and improves the quality of life of Angelenos, we at IBEW Local 11 agree and believe that the City has a critical role to play in the coming months as historic investments begin to flow from the State and Federal Level.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, our members in the Bureau's field operations have been essential to the upkeep and maintenance of street lighting infrastructure and have been critical in keeping Los Angeles safe. By being out in the field, we have also witnessed the impact that access to the internet, or lack thereof, has had on Los Angeles' communities – including seeing school children congregating outside places of business to log onto free Wi-Fi. We applaud the Federal, State, and local levels for taking this issue seriously and putting billions of dollars in combined funding toward actions that will help solve this divide.

Given these historic forthcoming investments, we believe that the Bureau's proposal is a solution to solve two problems at once – closing the issue of the digital divide while creating good-paying jobs by building infrastructure. Already, our members have been integral to the expansion of 5G networks through the City's Co-Location Program.

But WE can do more.

These pilots can serve as a model for a truly collaborative approach on the "future of work," helping build *both* the infrastructure assets *and* the workforce that will support the digital economy and more digitally empowered population of the near future. Furthermore, we believe that this is just the beginning. The city can, and should, take on a larger role investing more into broadband infrastructure, and advocating at the state and federal levels for Los Angeles' fair share of resources. Again, we appreciate the forward-looking approach that the Bureau has taken, and we look forward to working together to build a better LA.

Sincerely,

Joel Barton
Business Manager

cc: Members of the Los Angeles City Council

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