
Office of the City Clerk, City of Los Angeles

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Council File Number

[07-2312](#)

Title

BROKEN WINDOWS THEORY / REMOVING HANGING SHOES FROM POWER LINES

Subject

Motion - Throughout the City, there has been a recent rise in discarded shoes hanging from power lines and poles. According to local law enforcement officials, this practice is related to gangs marking the boundaries of their territory and drug dealers advertising their presence in a neighborhood. This is a problem that must be readily addressed in order to avoid additional blight and related crimes. The "Broken Windows" theory states that petty crimes, such as breaking windows and vandalism, should be quickly resolved in order to deter major crimes from occurring. By fixing problems such as vandalism and graffiti in a day or two, problems do not escalate and thus residents can maintain their neighborhoods and don't flee. This theory has proved successful in major cities throughout the country, resulting in reduced crime rates. Given this, the Broken Windows theory should be applied to the issue of discarded shoes hanging from power lines. The Department of Water and Power is responsible for the operation and maintenance of power lines within the City's jurisdiction. In order to effectively apply the Broken Windows theory, the Department should respond to requests to remove hanging shoes from power lines within 72-hours. Additionally, the Police Department should report on the feasibility of fining individuals that engage in this action. THEREFORE MOVE that the Department of Water and Power report to the Committees of Public Safety and Energy and Environment in 30 days on the feasibility of responding to requests to remove hanging shoes from power lines and related utility equipment within a 72-hour period. FURTHER MOVE that the Police Department concurrently report on the feasibility of fining individuals that repeatedly hang shoes from power lines and related utility equipment. REFER TO COUNCIL FILE 99-1690

Last Change Date

12/03/2009

Expiration Date

07/18/2009

Mover

GREIG SMITH

Second

DENNIS ZINE

Action History for Council File [07-2312](#)

Date

Activity

11/06/2009 File expired per Council policy, Council file No. 05-0553.

Archive History

7-18-07 - This day's Council session

7-18-07 - Ref to Energy and Environment Committee

7-18-07 - File to Energy and Environment Committee Clerk

2-1-08 - For ref - Communication from Department of Water and Power, dated January 22, 2008, relative to response to Motion (Smith - Zine) regarding shoe removal from power lines and related utility equipment.

2-5-08 - Ref to Energy and Environment Committee - to Committee Clerk