

Department of Water and Power



the City of Los Angeles

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H. DAVID NAHAI,
Chief Executive Officer and General Manager

January 22, 2008

The Honorable City Council
Office of the City Clerk
Room 395, City Hall
Mail Stop 160

Attention: Councilmember Jan Perry
Chairperson, Energy and Environment Committee

Councilmember Jack Weiss
Chairperson, Public Safety Committee

Honorable Members:

Subject: Council File No. 07-2312 - Broken Windows Theory / Removing Hanging
Shoes from Power Lines

This is in response to the motion (Smith – Zine) requesting the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) report to the Public Safety and Energy and Environment Committees on the feasibility of responding to requests to remove hanging shoes from power lines and related utility equipment within a 72 hour period.

The LADWP has been removing shoes from utility equipment since 2003/04 timeframe. It is our goal to remove shoes from utility equipment as soon as possible. Weekends may extend our response time however we generally remove the shoes within 72 hours of being notified.

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

FEB 05 2008

Water and Power Conservation ...a way of life

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The Honorable City Council
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If you have any questions or if further information is required, please contact me at (213) 367-1338, or have your staff contact Ms. Winifred Yancy, Government Affairs Representative, at (213) 367-0025.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. David Nahai', with a stylized, flowing script.

H. David Nahai
Chief Executive Officer and
General Manager

Enclosure

c/enc: Council President Eric Garcetti, Vice-Chair, Energy and Environment Committee
Councilmember Greig Smith, Vice-Chair, Public Safety Committee
Councilmember Richard Alarcon, Member, Energy and Environment Committee
Councilmember Tony Cardenas, Member, Energy and Environment Committee
Councilmember Wendy Greuel, Member, Energy and Environment Committee
Councilmember Bernard C. Parks, Member, Public Safety Committee
Councilmember Ed Reyes, Member, Public Safety Committee
Councilmember Dennis Zine, Member, Public Safety Committee
Ms. Winifred Yancy

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.

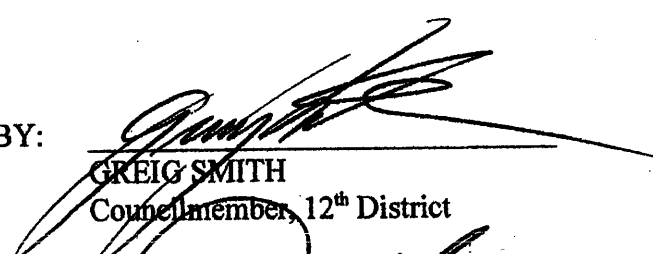
This theory has proved successful in major cities throughout the country, resulting in reduced crime rates. Given this, the Broken Windows theory should be applied to the issue of discarded shoes hanging from power lines.

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.

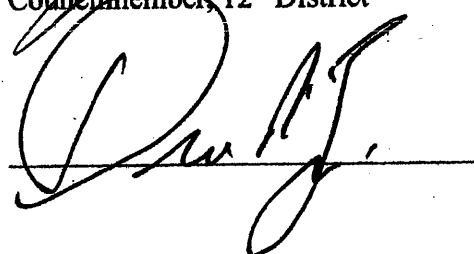
I THEREFORE MOVE that the Department of Water and Power report to the Committees on Public Safety and Energy and Environment in 30 days on the feasibility of responding to requests to remove hanging shoes from power lines and related utility equipment within a 72-hour period.

I 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.

PRESENTED BY:


GREIG SMITH
Councilmember, 12th District

SECONDED BY:



JUL 18 2007

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