

MOTION

In 2018, the City launched an electric vehicle (EV) carshare pilot program in select disadvantaged communities, and contracted with BlueLA Carsharing, LLC (BlueLA) to operate and maintain the program. BlueLA was charged with building a network of 40 EV charging stations with 200 charge points and maintaining a fleet of 100 EVs. In less than a year, the pilot enrolled more than 1,000 members, predominately from underinvested areas such as Westlake, Pico-Union, and portions of Downtown, Hollywood, and Koreatown.

Based on the pilot's early success, the City made plans to expand the program to South LA, Boyle Heights, and East Hollywood; however, BlueLA ceased operations in 2020. Later that year, Blink Mobility acquired BlueLA and, in 2021, the program was relaunched with a new fleet of EVs and new charge points.

Despite intentions to expand and build on a successful first year, the program experienced numerous challenges, including repeated acts of vandalism, theft, supply chain issues, and operational changes. Consequently, Blink Mobility has not installed any new stations since 2021, and as of April 2025, the only active location is in Culver City. As a result, the City has been left with blighted EV infrastructure and a defunct program that has fallen short of its pledge to provide a safe, reliable, and affordable mobility option to under-resourced communities.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council instruct the Department of Transportation to report on the status of the BlueLA EV carsharing program, including:

- The status of the BlueLA / Blink Mobility contract and the company's obligations to provide services to City residents;
- The number of EV charging stations that were installed as part of the program, their current condition, and options for utilizing/repurposing/disposing of them;
- The number of BlueLA users between 2018 and 2021 with a breakdown by location;
- Current transit options in the neighborhoods where BlueLA was previously available; and
- Potential opportunities for launching a new EV carsharing program.

PRESENTED BY:   
EUNISSES HERNANDEZ  
Councilmember, 1<sup>st</sup> District

SECONDED BY: 

ORIGINAL

mk 

MAR 03 2025