MOTION

With a population of almost 4 million, Los Angeles is the second-largest city in the United States and plays a major role in both the economy and strategic direction of California as a state and ultimately the entire country. Ensuring the security of departmental entities as well as public infrastructure in the City is absolutely essential to the safety of our population as well as maintaining our geopolitical position on a national and global level. Reports suggest that during the recent attack on Ukraine, the first shot was not fired from a physical weapon, but rather a digital one as cyberwar was waged before Russian troops ever stepped foot on Ukrainian soil. This and many other recent major cyber-attacks highlight how quickly an aggressive threat actor can do damage without ever leaving their computer screen.

In the past year, Federal agencies have notified many of the largest cities in the US of active targeting by state-sponsored and other malicious cyber actors using persistent and increasingly sophisticated malicious cyber campaigns that threaten the public's security and privacy. These malicious cyber actors have been targeting key municipalities in the US using new novel attack techniques (including those referred to as "Zero-Day" attacks). Recent research shows that 80% of successful attacks are from never-before-seen, novel attacks that are not visible to most cybersecurity tools. These adversarial actors have been able to easily circumvent the cybersecurity platforms that many municipalities have in place because they use outdated methods of detecting threats.

It is necessary that advanced technology with AI be used to address these most damaging novel attacks. The expertise and guidance on AI from federal agencies like the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) and the National Security Commission on AI (NSCAI) should be utilized and adopted. DARPA defines AI in waves, of which "Third Wave AI" is the most advanced.

Another necessary step in preventing cyber-attacks is understanding where and what IT assets exist within the City's technological infrastructure. Without a complete understanding of these assets, the City is left vulnerable to attack. The City has invested significant time and resources in procuring and deploying a wide range of security tools and it's critically important for all the City's IT assets to be visible across the City's infrastructure. A vital aspect of the cyber security efforts by the City is to be able to easily and accurately discover all its IT assets and to be able to effectively identify cyber security coverage gaps.

In Los Angeles, many of our City's most critical infrastructure and departments including the Police and Fire Departments, the Department of Water and Power, the Bureau of Sanitation, Los Angeles World Airports, the Port of LA, and others could potentially be at risk for these advanced attacks. We must immediately take action to ensure our City is protected from these threats and take measures to guard against any future attacks of this type. These actions include a comprehensive review of current cybersecurity measures currently in place as well as an IT asset management review to ensure there is complete visibility into all the City's IT assets in an effort to reduce the City's vulnerability to cyber-attacks.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Information Technology Agency (ITA) and all necessary Departments report back to the City Council on security measures and protocols in place to detect "novel attacks" in real-time, and any other form of advanced cyber-attack that could place critical infrastructure in jeopardy.

I FURTHER MOVE that the report include information on the current and future deployment of AI within the Departments cybersecurity program and whether they classify as "Third Wave AI" under DARPA and NSCAIs definition, in order to ensure the people and assets of the City of Los Angeles remain safe.

I FURTHER MOVE that the report include a comprehensive review of the City's current IT asset management capabilities as well as potential recommendations to improve or develop the City's IT asset management systems in order to effectively identify security coverage gaps as well as effectively managing all the City's IT assets.

PRESENTED BY _____
JOHN S. LEE
Councilmember, 12th District

SECONDED BY _____

ORIGINAL