

## MOTION

On Saturday, November 11, 2023, a massive fire broke out under the 10 Freeway in downtown Los Angeles, burning approximately eight acres of storage pallets, trailers, and vehicles. Due to the extensive damage, the 10 Freeway will remain closed at least several more weeks, causing long-term traffic and economic impacts for the entire region. This recent fire underscores the vulnerability of our City's infrastructure and the importance of protecting these vital systems against fire and other risks, whether from human or non-human activity.

As the City's homelessness crisis has grown exponentially, our freeway underpasses and overpasses, bridges, tunnels, and other transportation infrastructure have become a focal point. While these locations may provide shade and shelter from the elements, they are incompatible with human habitation. Open flames, gas tanks and generators, excessive personal belongings, trash, and other flammable and hazardous materials in these encampments are not uncommon. At just one underpass in CD11, there were more than ten encampment related fires between 2021-2022.

When fires in and around our critical infrastructure occur, the lives, health and safety of those living in encampments at those locations, as well as the lives and safety of our City's first responders, are significantly jeopardized.

Legal precedent in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals allows for reasonable time and place restrictions on where encampments may and may not be permitted. The City of Los Angeles has already enacted certain time and place restrictions, including within the vicinity of fire hydrants, driveways, and entrances to local businesses, as well as other "sensitive use sites," such as schools, parks, and daycares as defined in Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 41.18.

In light of these risks, the City should consider enacting legislation that would create safe barriers around our City's critical infrastructure, very high fire severity zones (as established pursuant to Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 57.4911.1.1 *et seq.*), and environmentally sensitive areas.

Other local governments, including the City of Sacramento and the County of Sacramento, have enacted ordinances protecting critical infrastructure such as emergency response, transportation, utilities, communications, water, and waste disposal and management.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council instruct the Chief Legislative Analyst in coordination with Bureau of Engineering, Department of City Planning and Department of Transportation, with other departments as necessary, to prepare an inventory of the City's critical infrastructure that is essential to the provision of public services, including but not limited to freeway underpasses, overpasses, bridges, train tracks, tunnels, waterways, drainage systems, public utilities, telecommunications systems, government buildings, facilities that house government operations, and transportation systems.



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I FURTHER MOVE THAT the Los Angeles Fire Department be instructed to report within 30 days regarding the number of encampment-related fires that have occurred along freeway underpasses, overpasses, and embankments in 2023, year to date.

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council request the City Attorney to prepare and present potential amendments to existing City laws that would protect critical infrastructure and our City's High Fire Severity Zones and Environmentally Sensitive Areas. The City of Sacramento and County of Sacramento ordinances should be used as a framework.

PRESENTED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

Traci Park

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Councilmember, 11<sup>th</sup> District

SECONDED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

J.S.L.

OFFICE OF THE CLERK  
CITY OF SACRAMENTO  
11th DISTRICT