

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT relative to the creation of a Copper Wire Task Force to address the proliferation of copper wire theft in the communities of Downtown Los Angeles, Boyle Heights, El Sereno, and Lincoln Heights.

Recommendations for Council action pursuant to Motion (De Leon – Park) and SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE MAYOR:

1. INSTRUCT the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), with the assistance of the Bureau of Street Lighting, to create a Copper Wire Task Force to address the proliferation of copper wire theft in the communities of Downtown, Boyle Heights, El Sereno, and Lincoln Heights.
2. TRANSFER and APPROPRIATE \$200,000 from the Council District 14 portion of the "Neighborhood Service Enhancements" line item in General City Purpose Fund No. 100/56 be transferred to the Police Fund No. 100/70, Account No. 1092 (Sworn Overtime), to cover the costs of the task force for addressing the rampant theft of copper wire in Council District 14.
3. AUTHORIZE the LAPD to make any corrections, clarifications or revisions to the above fund transfer instructions, including any new instructions, in order to effectuate the intent of this Motion, and including any corrections and changes to fund or account numbers; said corrections/clarifications/changes may be made orally, electronically or by any other means.

Fiscal Impact Statement: Neither the City Administrative Officer nor the Chief Legislative Analyst has completed a financial analysis of this report.

Community Impact Statement: None submitted.

Summary:

On February 13, 2024, your Committee considered a Motion (DeLeon – Park) relative to the creation of a Copper Wire Task Force to address the proliferation of copper wire theft in the communities of Downtown Los Angeles, Boyle Heights, El Sereno, and Lincoln Heights. According to the Motion, the City is facing a crisis of copper wire thefts. In Boyle Heights, Lincoln Heights, and El Sereno alone, thieves have darkened 3,738 streetlights by ripping out the copper wire from the light poles. In recent weeks, the 6th Street Viaduct was similarly snuffed out after criminals stole tens of thousands of dollars of copper wire. The City, quite literally, is being stripped for parts. Due to the sheer magnitude of thefts, the City must take a comprehensive approach to addressing copper wire theft. This can be achieved with the creation of a special joint task force between the LAPD's Central Bureau and the Bureau of Street Lighting. After consideration and having provided an opportunity for public comment, the Committee moved to recommend approval of the Motion. This matter is now submitted to Council for its consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Public Safety Committee

<b>COUNCILMEMBER</b>	<b>VOTE</b>
RODRIGUEZ:	YES
LEE:	YES
McOSKER:	YES
PARK:	YES
SOTO-MARTINEZ:	NO

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2/13/24  
CD 14

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