

Government Efficiency

MOTION

Bureau of Street Lighting (BSL) designs, constructs, and maintains approximately 220,000 streetlights that illuminate two-thirds of the City. The system has over 400 different styles of lights, ranging from modern to historic and ornate, with some assets in the City nearly a century old. Streetlights are supported by a vast underground network of approximately 9,000 miles of conduit filled with 27,000 miles of copper wire that connects to 12,000 DWP service points.

While the issue of thefts and vandalism in electrical systems have always been present, the City first saw a sharp uptick in thefts damaging the lighting system between Fiscal Year (FY) 06/07 (9 incidents) to FY07/08 (443 incidents) – well over a 40-fold increase. Levels remained fairly consistent with an average of 500 incidents per year until FY17/18. Within two years the number of incidents grew 4-fold and has consistently been above 2,500 incidents since FY19/20. To date, there are over 2,800 theft and vandalism incidents putting FY24/25 on a course to be the all-time high.

Lighting is an important aspect of public safety and ensuring our infrastructure is in working order and maintained is a core function of City government. It is critical for Council to understand the process that BSL goes through in responding to outages and damaged streetlights and the timeline it takes to repair street and pedestrian lighting.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Bureau of Street Lighting BE DIRECTED to report to the Government Efficiency, Innovation, and Audits on the existing process for repairing damaged street and pedestrian lighting infrastructure and the current timeline for repairs, as well as on potential bottlenecks or inefficiencies in the existing repair process.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Chief Legislative Analyst, with the assistance of the Bureau of Street Lighting, report to Government Efficiency, Innovation, and Audits with a comparative analysis of the street lighting repair process in other major cities, and how best practices in other cities can be adopted for the process in the City of Los Angeles.

PRESENTED BY:



MONICA RODRIGUEZ
Councilwoman, 7th District

SECONDED BY:



ORIGINAL



FEB 05 2025