

MOTION

The City of Los Angeles has grown to employ a diverse workforce of over 50,000 people. This growth has necessitated the acquisition or lease of new office space in the Civic Center and Historic Core of Downtown Los Angeles, as well as other areas throughout the City. This new office space ensures that the City workforce has the space to operate and provide quality City services.

At the same time, the COVID-19 pandemic forced all sectors, including government services, to reshape work environments. Many City departments implemented a telecommute option, which allowed City operations to remain functional while ensuring the safety of its workforce. Post-pandemic, every sector is evaluating the future of work. Depending on the jurisdiction, some public sector agencies have mandated a return to the office for their workforce, while others have adopted a hybrid model.

The City has not adopted one model for its civilian workforce relative to in-person or remote work. Each department has its own office policy. As a result, the City funds the office space required to support a large workforce, while also allowing employees to work a majority of the time from home. In addition, labor agreements stipulate certain workspace requirements for City employees; however, this practice may be outdated given a diminished need for office space.

For this reason, the current use of City resources for office leases and workspace may be excessive and inefficient. The City should audit costs associated with leases and maintaining traditional office space in the context that a significant number of City employees work from home. This analysis may be used to determine whether there are efficiencies to be gained from consolidation of leases, and/or execution of one office policy for the City's civilian workforce.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council instruct the General Services Department, with the assistance of the City Administrative Officer (CAO), to report with an overview of the City's current office lease portfolio, including an inventory of office space and costs associated with each lease.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Council instruct the Information Technology Agency, with the assistance of the CAO, to report with an overview of the City Departments' costs and inventory associated with at-home work station equipment.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Council instruct the CAO to report on City telecommuting policies within each department; and to provide an analysis of whether consolidating leases, streamlining different departmental policies, and revising space requirements found in current labor agreements relative to office standards, may bring about a more cost effective use of City funds.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Council instruct the Chief Legislative Analyst to report on current telecommuting and return-to-work policies in other jurisdictions across the State.

PRESENTED BY:

SECONDED BY:


MONICA RODRIGUEZ
Councilwoman, 7th District



ORIGINAL

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