

Communication from Public

Name: Blackshirt

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Council File No: 26-0002-S11

Comments for Public Posting: I salute this Council file 26-0002-S11. It may finally put some teeth in the theft of copper wire from our COLA infrastructure. What many don't realize is that this theft of copper wire and cabling could result in telephone land line loss for stakeholders. This could result in seniors in our community losing land line access to fire, life, safety responders during an emergency. Many seniors still rely upon land lines instead of cell phones. This puts those seniors at extreme risk in an emergency when they can't reach friends, family or fire, life safety responders on a land line. My Mom still has a land line that she uses because her cell phone confuses her at times. We have had copper and cabling thieves running roughshod through the SFV. Police won't do anything because "no trespassing signs" are not stapled to the telephone poles that are being scaled at 3 or 4 in the morning by the thieves! Yes, the police (specifically a senior lead office or SLO) have told me this. Advised me and my neighbors the same thing the 15 or so times this theft has happened from telephone poles in our community over the last several years. So, please scale up our lawmaking to counter this public safety and fiscal assault on our city of Los Angeles. If we don't do this, these copper thieves are going to kill somebody's grandma!

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council; and

WHEREAS, copper wire theft continues to be a persistent and costly issue impacting communities throughout Los Angeles, having far-reaching consequences such as prolonged power outages and darkened streets, which directly diminishes neighborhood security and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, the constant need for repair and replacement of stolen infrastructure places a substantial financial burden on the city, draining taxpayer funds that could otherwise be allocated to essential public services; and

WHEREAS, in 2024, persistent wire theft resulted in nearly forty-five thousand service requests that seriously strained the Bureau of Street Lighting's resources, causing repair delays of over six months; and

WHEREAS, despite the City's best efforts to curb rampant copper wire theft through task forces and creative lighting, the damages caused by copper wire theft continue to be a significant financial cost and public safety concern; and

WHEREAS, Assembly Bill 476, signed by the Governor in October 2025, requires junk dealers and recyclers to include the time, amount paid, and employee name for each transaction in their written records, revise the description of junk items, and obtain a signed statement of ownership or source; and

WHEREAS, Assembly Bill 1941, introduced by Assemblymember Mark Gonzalez, builds upon the effective legislation of AB 476 by targeting repeat and organized offenders who steal or traffic prohibited metal materials and creates a statewide data-sharing tool to allow for increased visibility into organized metal theft operations; and

WHEREAS, AB 1941 would establish organized metal theft punishable as either a misdemeanor or a felony, sending a clear message that those who damage our City's infrastructure and make our communities less safe will face stiff consequences;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2025-2026 State Legislative Program SUPPORT of AB 1941 (Gonzalez) and would encourage additional amendments to clarify that criminal liability of metal theft be calculated based upon the full cost to the victim to repair and replace the stolen materials, including labor and equipment, rather than the fair market scrap value.

PRESENTED BY:

ADRIAN NAZARIAN
Councilmember, 2nd District

SECONDED BY:

Monica Rodriguez

ORIGINAL

FEB 25 2026