

MOTION

Abandoned structures in the City can pose significant fire risk, in addition to being a general nuisance. These structures are often not maintained, and contain significant fuel for potentially destructive fires which could spread to adjacent properties or into vegetation. The Fire Department (LAFD) has the capability to demolish these buildings, but only does so after a fire has occurred at a site.

In an effort to reduce fire risks and address the dangers posed by these abandoned structures, the City should look at establishing a program to enable the LAFD to demolish high-risk abandoned structures. The LAFD could work with council offices and other stakeholders to identify these properties, and demolish them before they are the site of a major emergency. Further, this program could be paid for by a fee charged to the owner of the abandoned structures, thereby ensuring that this program does not rely on the General Fund.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Fire Department, with the assistance of the Department of Building and Safety, the City Administrative Officer, and the City Attorney, report on the feasibility of establishing a program to authorize the Fire Department to proactively demolish abandoned structures that pose a significant fire risk prior to the occurrence of a fire, including necessary due process protocols such as owner notification and a final opportunity to abate.

I FURTHER MOVE that the report evaluate the effectiveness of the current LADBS abatement process and identify any limitations that delay or prevent timely mitigation of hazardous structures, including whether LAFD involvement would accelerate removal efforts or a joint task force would accelerate removal efforts.

I FURTHER MOVE that the report recommend objective criteria for defining “high-risk” abandoned structures (such as proximity to Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (VHFHSZ)) and identify legally enforceable cost-recovery mechanisms, including nuisance abatement liens or special assessments added to the property tax roll, to ensure demolition costs are recovered without reliance on the General Fund.

PRESENTED BY: *Imelda Padilla*
IMELDA PADILLA
Councilmember, 6th District

SECONDED BY: *[Signature]*

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