

MOTION

The Bureau of Street Lighting (BSL) is responsible for managing, maintaining, and repairing 223,000 streetlights connected to over 7,000 miles of underground conduit, along with the associated infrastructure. BSL has operated on approximately \$45 million annually since 1996 — less than 0.5% of the total City budget — a figure that has remained largely unchanged for three decades.

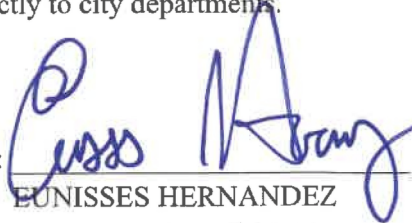
The majority of BSL's budget comes from the Prop 218 City Street Lighting District Assessment, which has been frozen at 1996 assessment values. State and local law require BSL to deliver equal street lighting services to all property owners. The bureau's function is to respond to service requests in the order they are received. Given the high volume of service requests and limited budget, BSL has set a service level of 1 year for repairs to street lights to meet the requirements of the 1996 assessment. Of current service requests, 60% are related to deferred and delayed maintenance, while 40% are related to vandalism or theft.

Despite these constraints, BSL has maximized its limited resources by implementing an LED conversion program and installing solar lights, saving millions in energy costs and generating ongoing savings for maintenance and repair. However, the current funding model, sustained by the 1996 allotment, is unsustainable in the long term. BSL is authorized to move forward with a citywide protest-vote ballot measure that will update the over 550,000 parcels to current maintenance costs. Updated funding would improve response times for repairs and maintenance and support cost-saving programs such as solar light conversion.

The proposed ballot measure is projected to generate \$125 million annually. To ensure these resources are deployed without delay, the City should begin coordinating now with departments and employee labor organizations on staffing needs, hiring policies, and onboarding procedures.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council instruct the City Administrative Officer (CAO) and the Personnel Department, in coordination with the Bureau of Street Lighting (BSL) and its respective employee labor organizations, to report to the Budget and Finance Committee during the FY 2026–27 Budget Hearings with a framework and analysis for expedited hiring. The report should present a range of options, including but not limited to: (1) front-funding hiring through various means and methods; (2) expanding resources and expertise within the Personnel Department; (3) deployment models that better utilize programs within the affected employee labor organizations such as apprenticeship programs; and (4) transferring hiring functions from the Personnel Department directly to city departments.

PRESENTED BY:


EUNISSES HERNANDEZ
Councilmember, 1st District

SECONDED BY:



ORIGINAL


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