

MOTION

The streetlights in Los Angeles are a vital component of our public infrastructure in the City. Beyond illuminating our streets, sidewalks and public spaces, they are also an integral piece of our public safety ecosystem, supporting safe travel, neighborhood connectivity, economic activity, and quality of life for millions of Angelenos each day. For over a century, the City has been providing this public asset. Despite the indispensable role streetlights play in the daily lives of Angelenos, the underlying funding structure that supports their operation and maintenance has remained frozen since 1996. Over that same period, Los Angeles has experienced significant population growth, rising labor and construction costs, aging infrastructure, and increasing demands on public services.

In April of 2026, the Bureau of Street Lighting and the City Clerk issued a street lighting assessment ballot for the majority of households across the City. This was the first time this has been attempted since the passage of Proposition 218 - bringing the frozen assessment values up to 2026 standards, and thereby funding this infrastructure to today's needs. The Assessment Ballot failed to pass as of June 25, 2025 (CF 26-0331), leading to an immediate deficit in funding plans for the Bureau, and putting our already tenuous lighting infrastructure at greater risk of falling into disrepair.

The expected impacts are swift and far reaching. There will be a 15% cut in field workforces by the end of July 2026, making the timeline for streetlight repair to reach 2 years when the City had previously been able to do this work within 7 days. This is an immediate threat to public safety and our infrastructure at large.

Simultaneously, the data shows that there are areas of the City where the assessment would have passed, meaning direct opportunities to fund lighting infrastructure in those areas. An analysis of the ballot tabulation will provide the City with extensive information on how to better serve its constituents, and where greater information sharing and community engagement is needed.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council INSTRUCT the City Administrative Officer, with assistance from the Bureau of Street Lighting, to report back in 30 days with options identifying \$6.6 M for immediate use by BSL to maintain workforce and baseline services, including feasibility of repurposing MICLA funding previously approved for use by the BSL by the City Council and Mayor.

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council INSTRUCT the BSL, with assistance from the City Attorney, City Administrative Officer, Chief Legislative Analyst, and any additional necessary departments, to report back within 30 days and present information and recommendations to council on August 4, 2026, including but not limited to:

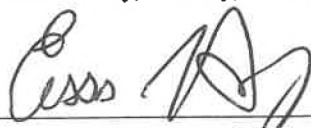
- A cost analysis of the Bureau's fees that are not currently at full recovery and recommendations to update all street lighting related fees to ensure full cost recovery;
- Recommendations, including any potential code amendments necessary, to monetize current assets managed by the Bureau, including fiber and conduit leasing, street banner advertising, and leasing for attachments on streetlight poles; and,
- Recommendations on interdepartmental partnerships and agreements that can reposition existing resources to preserve the Bureau's staffing while efficiently managing the streetlight system.

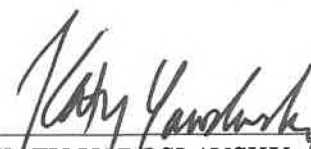


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I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council INSTRUCT the BSL, with assistance from the City Clerk, to report within 30 days a written and graphic analysis of ballot tabulation results including, but not limited to:

- A heat map of the final tally;
- Identification of which areas may support future assessment increases;
- Breakdowns of the results by assessment value, acreage, dwelling units per parcel, commercial units per parcel; and
- Parcels where the owner does not occupy the parcel - including breakdown of parcels by owners that live within the City, County, State, or out-of-state.

PRESENTED BY: 
EUNISSES HERNANDEZ
Councilmember, 1st District


KATY YAROSLAVSKY
Councilwoman, 5th District

SECONDED BY: 

ORIGINAL