

MOTION

Extreme heat has become one of the deadliest climate-related hazards in California and poses an increasing threat to public health, infrastructure, and quality of life throughout the City of Los Angeles. The northwest San Fernando Valley regularly experiences some of the highest daytime temperatures in the City. During summer months and prolonged heat waves, temperatures in these communities frequently exceed 100 degrees Fahrenheit and can remain dangerously elevated well into the evening due to the urban heat island effect.

According to the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA), prolonged exposure to extreme heat significantly increases the risk of heat exhaustion, heat stroke, cardiovascular illness, respiratory distress, and premature death, particularly among seniors, infants and young children, individuals with chronic medical conditions, persons with disabilities, and low-income households. The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health has likewise identified extreme heat as a growing public health emergency that disproportionately impacts communities lacking access to adequate cooling.

While many residents seek relief in public cooling centers, libraries, and recreation facilities, these resources provide only temporary refuge. Individuals spend the overwhelming majority of their time inside their homes, where indoor temperatures can become dangerously high during prolonged heat events. Numerous multifamily residential buildings throughout the San Fernando Valley were constructed decades before air conditioning became commonplace and therefore lack central cooling systems. Many older adults, low-income tenants, or other vulnerable individuals living in these buildings cannot afford to purchase portable cooling equipment on their own, leaving them particularly vulnerable during extreme heat emergencies.

The State of California's Extreme Heat and Community Resilience Grant Program was established to support projects that reduce the impacts of extreme heat, protect vulnerable populations, and strengthen community resilience. The upcoming funding round, millions appropriated from the Aliso Canyon Recovery Account for local assistance projects, presents an important opportunity for the City of Los Angeles to secure state funding to directly assist vulnerable renters residing in some of the hottest neighborhoods in Los Angeles.

Establishing an Indoor Heat Safety Fund would enable the City of Los Angeles to purchase and distribute portable air conditioning units and other eligible cooling apparatus to qualifying tenants living in rental units without existing air conditioning. Such a program would help reduce heat-related illnesses, improve public health outcomes, increase climate resilience, and ensure that vulnerable Angelenos are better protected during increasingly frequent and severe heat events.

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I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council instruct the Community Investment Department (CID), in coordination with the Los Angeles Housing Department, Climate Emergency Mobilization Office, and the City Administrative Officer, to prepare and submit an application for the upcoming round of funding of the Extreme Heat and Community Resilience Grant Program, or any successor funding opportunity, to seek grant funding for the creation of an Indoor Heat Safety Fund.

I FURTHER MOVE that, if awarded grant funding, CID, in coordination with LAHD, establish and administer the Indoor Heat Safety Fund to purchase and distribute eligible cooling apparatus, including portable air conditioning units and other qualifying cooling devices, to income-qualified tenants residing in rental units without existing air conditioning located within the communities of Porter Ranch, Granada Hills, Northridge, Chatsworth, North Hills, Canoga Park, Reseda, Winnetka, West Hills, Van Nuys, and Lake Balboa.

I FURTHER MOVE that CID prioritize assistance to households containing seniors, individuals with disabilities, households with young children, medically vulnerable residents, and other populations identified as being at elevated risk of heat-related illness during extreme heat events.

I FURTHER MOVE that CID report back within 30 days with a proposed program eligibility criteria, implementation timeline, estimated number of households that could be served, any matching fund requirements, and recommendations for administering the Indoor Heat Safety Fund should grant funding be awarded.

PRESENTED BY


JOHN S. LEE

Councilmember, 12th District

SECONDED BY

