

MOTION

Illegal dumping has become a major blight on the city of Los Angeles imposing significant costs on taxpayers while negatively affecting public health, public safety, environmental quality, and the quality of life of communities throughout the City. The City continues to devote substantial resources to removing illegally dumped waste, yet the continued recurrence of dumping at the same locations demonstrates that cleanup alone is not sufficient to address the problem.

While the City has made investments in identifying and removing illegally dumped waste, illegal dumping must be addressed as a comprehensive three pronged strategy, consisting of cleanup and abatement, education and prevention, and investigation and enforcement with meaningful penalties. Solely focusing on cleanup efforts will lead to the City repeatedly bearing the cost of removing illegally dumped materials, without adequately addressing the individuals, businesses, and practices responsible in the first place.

The Bureau of Street Services (BSS) plays a leadership role in public-right-of-way enforcement and the City's response to illegal dumping. A comprehensive three pronged strategy will be most successful if BSS leadership is complemented by and in coordination with important specialized roles of LASAN, LAPD, the City Attorney's office, and other appropriate departments.

The need for stronger enforcement is particularly evident when considering the City's existing penalty structure. Under Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 66.25, administrative fines for illegal dumping are currently \$500 for a first violation, \$750 for a second violation, and \$1,000 for a third and subsequent violation. Other California jurisdictions have demonstrated that substantially higher administrative penalties are possible. Santa Cruz County currently imposes administrative penalties of \$2,500 for a first illegal dumping violation, \$5,000 for a second violation within one year, and \$10,000 for a third or subsequent violation within one year. Los Angeles should evaluate whether its administrative penalties need to be increased to reflect the public costs and impacts associated with illegal dumping, while ensuring that penalties remain legally defensible, proportionate, and appropriately scaled according to the severity, quantity, frequency, and circumstances of the violation.

However, fines alone will not solve the City's illegal dumping problem. Effective enforcement requires investigators, technology, data, cleanup capacity, coordination, and sustained attention to the locations where dumping repeatedly occurs. The City should therefore explore whether existing technology, equipment, and contractual resources already available to the City can be leveraged for illegal dumping enforcement before investing in entirely new systems. Camera technologies utilized by City departments, including LASAN and LAPD, should be evaluated for their potential use by BSS at identified illegal dumping hotspots, where legally permissible and operationally appropriate.

Finally, enforcement and cleanup resources must be deployed equitably. The City should establish a process through which each Council District office works directly with BSS to identify and maintain a list of chronic illegal dumping hotspots within that district. These locations should be evaluated with existing City data, such as MyLA311 reports, cleanup requests, CleanStat data, and other available datasets, along with direct input from Council District offices and the communities that they represent.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Bureau of Street Services (BSS), in coordination with Los Angeles Sanitation and Environment (LASAN), LAPD, City Atty, and other relevant City departments, be instructed to report to the City Council within 30 days on illegal dumping enforcement activities and the status of funding allocated in the FY 2026-27 budget. This report should include recommendations on needed


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resources and funding for strengthening the City's response to illegal dumping toward a comprehensive strategy of abatement, prevention, and enforcement.

I FURTHER MOVE that BSS report on the feasibility of utilizing existing City contracts, technology, equipment, and other resources currently available to City departments, including LASAN and LAPD, for the limited purpose of identifying, documenting, investigating, and prosecuting illegal dumping activity.

I FURTHER MOVE that BSS, in coordination with each Council District office, be instructed to develop a citywide inventory of chronic illegal dumping hotspots, with each Council District identifying priority locations within its jurisdiction, and report on a system for regularly updating the inventory based on both objective City data and community and Council District input.

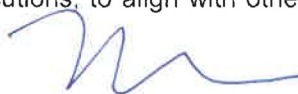
I FURTHER MOVE that BSS, in coordination with the Los Angeles Police Department and Bureau of Sanitation, be INSTRUCTED to report back in 30 days with options to update penalties for illegal dumping, as well as increasing rewards for successful prosecutions, to align with other municipalities in California.

PRESENTED BY:



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