

M O T I O N

On February 5, 2016, the 434-bed Hollywood Presbyterian Medical Center declared an internal emergency in response to a cyber attack on its computer system. Utilizing malware to encrypt hospital files, hackers demanded a ransom worth \$17,000 in bitcoin, a digital currency, in exchange for the decryption key needed to restore the system. The hospital paid the ransom, concluding that it was the quickest and most efficient way to normalize its systems and administrative functions.

Nevertheless, the hospital did not regain complete access to its computer systems until three days after, on February 8th. This is troubling considering that 911 call patients being transported by ambulance were diverted to other hospitals, and staff were processing all registrations and medical records on paper during this crisis. Though an investigation has been initiated by the LAPD and FBI, it will be difficult to identify the perpetrators as bitcoins are nearly impossible to trace.

Cyber attacks on medical institutions, like Hollywood Presbyterian Medical Center, have become more common in recent years. Last July, a cyber attack on the UCLA Health System's computer network may have accessed as many as 4.5 million patient records. Patient medical records obtained by hackers have been misused by health insurance companies and for fraud schemes, like identity theft. In addition to exploiting and violating the privacy of patients' personal information, cyber attacks pose a threat to quality patient care by disrupting the day-to-day operations of medical institutions.

In light of the City's ever-expanding use of technology, the increasing prevalence of cyber attacks and their potential to infiltrate and threaten large-scale systems warrant a closer look at the security of the City's own systems. Accordingly, the Information Technology Agency should report on City systems security to ensure that City operations and the privacy of approximately 47,000 City employees are protected from cyber attacks.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council instruct the Information Technology Agency to report on the processes for ensuring security of City systems, and what steps, if any are needed, to further secure City systems from cyber attacks.

PRESENTED BY:


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SECONDED BY:



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FEB 23 2016