

PUBLIC SAFETY
~~ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT~~
PUBLIC SAFETY

MOTION

Small businesses are engines of economic growth and a vital part of the local economy. In Los Angeles County, there are approximately 200,000 small businesses that provide about half of the 3.5 million private sector, local jobs.

According to the study *2017 State of Cybersecurity in Small and Medium-Sized Businesses* conducted by the Ponemon Institute, an independent entity that conducts research on privacy, data protection and information security policy, 61 percent of businesses experienced a cyber attack in the past 12 months. Additionally, the U.S. National Cyber Security Alliance found that 60 percent of small companies are unable to sustain their businesses for more than six months after experiencing a cyber attack.

Small businesses are especially at risk of cyber attacks due to their size, lack of skilled IT staff and limited budget allocated to cyber security measures. The Ponemon Institute's study reports that 63 percent of small businesses do not have an adequate budget to protect themselves from cyber attacks and 62 percent of small businesses do not have in-house expertise to achieve a strong cybersecurity defense.

Undoubtedly, small businesses are in dire need of resources and assistance to help defend themselves from cyber attacks. As vital contributors to our economy and communities, it is in the City's best interest to assist small businesses by helping to identify resources to combat cyber attacks.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Economic and Workforce Development Department and the Information Technology Agency be instructed to report on best practices to protect small businesses from cyber-attacks.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Economic and Workforce Development Department and the Information Technology Agency be instructed to include in their report the feasibility and estimated cost of offering cyber security training at all Citywide Business Source Centers.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Economic and Workforce Development Department and the Information Technology Agency be instructed to include in their report any possible funding sources for this training, including but not limited to the Innovation Fund.

ORIGINAL

PRESENTED BY:

MITCHELL ENGLANDER
Councilmember, 12th District

SECONDED BY

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