MOTION

Information Technology (IT) is most commonly known for basic uses, such as internet browsing and email. As a municipal entity, IT provides the City with opportunities to enhance operations and improve accessibility to the public, however, IT is more integral to our daily lives than we often realize. Much of the foundation of our City depends on IT infrastructure, such as the Financial Management System, Crime Analysis Application, and the Los Angeles Police Department's (LAPD) Dispatch System. These systems, if interrupted for any reason, could potentially have devastating impacts on the operations of the City and threaten the basic protections of life for Angelenos.
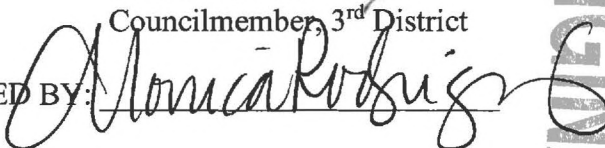
On August 30, 2017, City Controller Ron Galperin released an audit which examined the City's IT disaster recovery plans for Council-controlled departments. The audit assessed the adequacy of the City's disaster recovery plans for systems deemed as critical, such as the LAPD Dispatch System. These critical systems were found to be essential in protecting public safety and maintaining City services in the event of a disaster.

The audit indicates that several City departments, including the Information Technology Agency (ITA) and Emergency Management Department (EMD) operate critical IT systems, and while efforts have been made to protect these systems in the event of a disaster, the City lacks a coordinated approach to disaster recovery. Departments' testing of these systems in a variety of disaster scenarios were also found to be inconsistent across departments. Further, the lack of a codified IT business continuity plan has created inconsistency across departments, and none are based on standard industry practices, such as the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Continuity Directive. The City's fragmented approach to disaster recovery could interrupt emergency communications and crime monitoring systems, for days, depending on the type and magnitude of a disaster, which could be pernicious for the entirety of the City of Los Angeles.

The Controller makes several recommendations, the most critical of which are as follows: 1) Create a Steering Committee to oversee the development of a Citywide Disaster Recovery Plan (CDRP) which is consistent with best practices for continuance of operations, and includes proper testing of systems for a variety of disaster scenarios; and 2) Designate a lead agency, such as EMD, to work with all relevant City departments, to develop and implement the CDRP.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Information Technology Agency be instructed to work with the Emergency Management Department and report to the Council in 30 days with options to create an IT Disaster Recovery Steering Committee, including recommendations as to which departments/offices should be members of the Committee, and subsequent steps required to develop and implement a Citywide Disaster Recovery Plan.

PRESENTED BY: _____

BOB BLUMENFIELD
Councilmember, 3rd District

SECONDED BY: _____

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