

MOTION

Illegal dumping of trash is a persistent violation that creates significant public health and safety concerns. In conjunction with the increasing number of homeless encampments, illegal dumping compounds sanitation problems in many areas of the City, perhaps most dramatically in the industrial areas of Downtown Los Angeles.

Service requests are centralized and tracked through the 3-1-1 system, which allows anyone to call 3-1-1 or use the MyLA311 app to report a wide range of service needs, such as illegal dumping, graffiti, potholes, uplifted sidewalks, clogged gutters and broken streetlights. These service requests can come from residents, Council offices or other City employees and can then be responded to by departments and monitored by Council offices.

The LA Sanitation and the Environment [LA Sanitation] is the department responsible for responding to illegal dumping service requests. To date in 2019, LA Sanitation has responded to an average of 1,200 requests per month. While it generally is able to respond to most requests within two weeks, the high volume of requests creates an ongoing backlog, and there is a continuing need for additional resources to quickly respond to all requests for service.

Previously a few Sanitation crews dedicated to illegal dumping were also deployed to clean up homeless encampments. As the crisis of homelessness has continued to grow, there has been an increasing focus on the urgent and specialized demands of clean ups around homeless encampments.

In last year's budget cycle, following discussion of a November 2017 motion by Councilmembers Huizar, Price and O'Farrell [CF14-1499-S6], the City doubled the number of crews dedicated to homeless encampments, and now there are 20 crews that operate as either "Clean Streets LA" or "HOPE" teams, primarily focused on addressing Sanitation and other concerns related to homeless encampments.

More funding has been programmed in the recently approved budget for Fiscal Year 19-20 to address homeless encampments and illegal dumping, adding 11 more Sanitation crews and a second Recreation and Parks crew for dumping and encampment issues in City parks. However, there remain challenges in quickly hiring and training the necessary staff to deploy these crews at the beginning of the new fiscal year, July 1.

Additionally, the City needs to look at other options to augment City resources. Chrysalis is a non-profit employment services program that supports the City's homelessness strategies and separately provides trash and street cleaning support to numerous Business Improvement Districts. It could employ residents who are experiencing homelessness to provide trash and bulky-item clean up two days per week and five hours per day at a quoted cost of \$7,600 per month.

Enforcement is also a critical strategy to prevent recurring violations and deter illegal dumping, and the City should examine how to make enforcement as effective as possible. For example, in 2010, as chair of the Public Works Committee, Councilmember Huizar oversaw the increase of fines for illegal dumping and amendments to make it easier to cite violators without having to catch them in the act [CF 08-1122]; in 2013, CD14 expanded the use of surveillance cameras [CF 13-0962]; and in 2016 a motion by Councilmember Harris-Dawson [CF 14-1499-S4] asked to consider fine levels, state and County laws, and a possible reward program to enhance enforcement.

I THEREFORE MOVE that Sanitation report on the funding or other system changes necessary to bring the backlog of illegal dumping locations to zero and to maintain a rapid response to illegal dumping requests.

I FURTHER MOVE that Sanitation report on strategies and needs to enforce the perpetrators of illegal dumping, including technology, tracking repeat locations and cross-referencing dumping investigations with those related to non-compliance with requirements of businesses to provide adequate trash service. Sanitation's report should include what funding or other resources are needed to expand or enhance enforcement, including through personnel and/or technology, and any recommendations it may have for strengthening enforcement through increased penalties and/or rewards.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Council authorize and fund Sanitation to supplement its service by hiring crews with a provider who employs people experiencing or transitioning out of homelessness, like Chrysalis, as an interim measure to address urgent conditions of illegal dumping, particularly in the industrial areas of Downtown.

I FURTHER MOVE that Sanitation report on protocols for its employees to report illegal dumping sites when responding to other complaints or during normal-service trash collection, and for the Board of Public Works to provide recommendations for training to ensure regular reporting of these locations.

PRESENTED BY: 

JOSE HUIZAR
Councilmember, 14th District

SECONDED BY: 



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