

MOTION

The Mayor's Resilience by Design report points out that there has not been a major earthquake in Los Angeles since the vast technological advances that have made internet and cellular communication an integral part of our society and economy.

Cellular towers are designed and constructed to life-safety standards, meaning that they are designed to be unlikely to collapse, but need not be functional following an earthquake. Interruptions to services provided through cellular towers due to physical damage can create lengthy delays in response and recovery. Debris, downed bridges, and other hazards can further create complications for repairing this infrastructure in a timely manner particularly following a catastrophic event.

In urban areas like Los Angeles where there is limited open space for freestanding cellular towers, more than half of telecommunication structures are affixed to buildings. Older buildings, which are more likely to collapse, are often the ones that house these towers.

Telecommunications capacity can be easily lost if a building experiences serious damage. In the 2011 Haiti earthquake, an estimated 3,000,000 Haitians were suddenly without cell phone service because of the widespread building damage. Thus, freestanding telecommunication structures become critical in maintaining cell phone service following an earthquake.

To increase the City's resilience in this area, the Mayor is recommending that the building code be amended to require new freestanding cellular communication towers to be built to a stronger standard by adopting an "Importance Factor" of 1.5, which mirrors the standard currently required for public safety facilities. Existing towers would not be affected by this building code change.

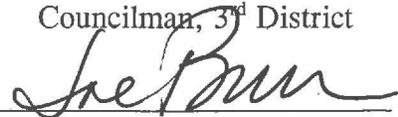
I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Attorney be requested to prepare and present an ordinance to require new cellular communications towers to be constructed to satisfy the requirements of an "Importance Factor" of 1.5, which mirrors the standard currently required for public safety facilities.

PRESENTED BY



BOB BLUMENFIELD
Councilman, 3rd District

SECONDED BY



January 14, 2015

ak

ORIGINAL

