

MOTION

HOUSING

In the past two weeks, Los Angeles has experienced record high heat, with soaring temperatures above the 90s. This last week has been one of the hottest on record for Los Angeles, and for many counties and cities across Southern California. In the San Fernando Valley alone, residents saw temperatures rise to 110 degrees.

All over the city, Angelenos are experiencing harsh weather conditions without the necessary equipment to keep them safe and healthy. Scientists predict that this summer's heat wave is a response to a worsening "heat dome" that has no intention of slowing down in upcoming years. These lethal heat levels are a marker of higher average temperatures to come, and the City needs to be prepared to provide relief during times of extreme heat.

Residents of low income neighborhoods are most vulnerable to rising temperatures. The Climate Vulnerability Assessment report created by LA County showed that the largest increases in extreme heat will occur in low income neighborhoods and will exacerbate social and economic inequality. Currently, South LA, the Harbor area, and the Northeast San Fernando Valley show much higher emergency room visits during heat waves than the rest of the city.

As climate change transforms Southern California, cooling devices will go from being an amenity, to a necessity. While cooling centers are necessary and useful, they are only meant to address the most extreme circumstances. However, as these conditions become more commonplace, everyone should have a home that consistently fosters safe living conditions.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council instruct the Los Angeles Housing Department (LAHD) and City Attorney, to report back on options to amend the current code to require sufficient cooling apparatuses in residential rental units in Los Angeles and potential funding sources.

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council instruct the LAHD, Chief Heat Officer, and Climate Emergency Mobilization Office (CEMO) to report back on ways that extreme weather events and climate change may impact housing conditions, especially in older units, and any necessary mitigations to ensure safe living conditions across Los Angeles's housing stock.

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council request the City Attorney, with assistance from LAHD, to report back with options for actions the City can take to assist tenants who do not have access to functioning cooling apparatuses for an unreasonable period of time despite their leases establishing their access to such apparatuses.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Department of Water and Power report back on resources and programs to assist low income households with their energy bills during extreme weather events as well as rebates to buy more energy efficient cooling devices.

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Administrative Officer report back on funding sources to assist low income households during extreme weather events such as the Climate Equity Fund.

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PRESENTED BY: 
NURY MARTINEZ
Councilwoman, 6th District

SECONDED BY: 

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