PUBLIC WORKS

MOTION

Street lighting is a core service provided by the City that is both a public safety and quality of life issue, ensuring our streets are navigable regardless of the time of day, and increasing residents' sense of security at night. Over the past decade, the City has seen increasing incidents of vandalism against its streetlight network which have resulted in widespread outages and extended the average repair time to restore lighting. While the City has launched a task force to address the theft of copper wire from street lighting infrastructure and taken action against recycling companies that purchase the stolen materials in bulk, vandalism against City streetlights has continued.

The Bureau of Street Lighting, which manages the City's network of over 220,000 streetlights, has taken numerous actions to respond to this rise in streetlight vandalism, including hardening infrastructure and piloting newer technologies, including solar-powered streetlights that do not require copper wiring. As part of the innovative technologies the Bureau has deployed, it has also installed smart nodes on a small proportion of its streetlights that allow the Bureau to remotely monitor the status of streetlights.

For the vast majority of streetlights, the City relies primarily on resident reports and service requests to monitor the status of its network. This reliance on service requests extends the time between when an outage occurs and when the City is able to make repairs to streetlights, regardless of if the repairs needed are simple or complex. Expansion of the City's capability to monitor the status of its streetlight network in real-time would allow the City to respond to outages more nimbly, provide more granular data on where and when damage to streetlights is occurring, and enhance the Bureau of Street Lighting's overall operation.

The Bureau of Street Lighting should explore the feasibility of installing sensors that allow for active and remote monitoring of its streetlights whenever it is implementing other improvements to reinforce and harden its infrastructure. This would enable the City to be more proactive in addressing streetlight outages, especially in areas where residents may be less likely to report issues.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Bureau of Street Lighting be instructed to report with recommendations for embedding sensors within street lighting infrastructure to allow for active monitoring of the status of streetlights when it is installing other security improvements.

PRESENTED BY: Heather Hutt
HEATHER HUTT
Councilmember, 10th District

SECONDED BY: John Yoo

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