

MOTION

SPECIAL 1


On December 6, 2017 a dangerous, fast-moving wildfire broke out in the hills near Bel-Air, destroying six homes and damaging several others before being contained by the Fire Department and its partner agencies. Recent news articles state that the Fire Department has found that this fire was ignited by a cooking fire at a homeless encampment in a nearby ravine, which was obscured from view from the street. This fire spread quickly, fueled by incredibly dry brush and strong Santa Ana winds.

These camps pose a significant risk to hillside communities and the City at large. The Fire Department should report on this incident, and what steps can be taken to ensure nothing like this happens again. Encampments are illegal in the hillsides, and camp fires are prohibited in these areas. The City needs the ability to aggressively enforce these laws on land owned by the City of Los Angeles, and to work quickly and collaboratively with all other owned government jurisdictions and land owners in these areas to address issues caused by trespass.

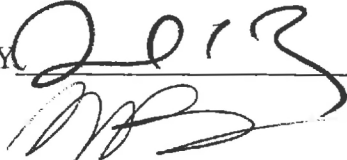
I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council determine, as provided in Section 54954.2(b)(2) of the Government Code, and pursuant to Rule 23 of the Rules of the City Council, that there is a need to take immediate action on this matter AND that the need for action came to the attention of the City Council subsequent to the posting of the agenda for today's Council meeting.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Fire Department, with the assistance of other impacted departments, the Police Department, the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and Caltrans, report on the homeless encampment where the Skirball Fire was started, including if the homeless individuals in this camp were trespassing on land not open to the public. This report should include information related to identifying homeless encampments in Very High Fire Severity Zones and what actions are appropriate to prevent trespass in these areas. The report should also address what kind of signage is needed to warn individuals they are trespassing in a Very High Fire Severity Zone, and how the City, Caltrans, the County and other land owners can more effectively enforce against trespass on land not open to the public. Finally, this report should include recommendations for a Memorandum of Understanding between the City and other jurisdictions to enable regular, efficient brush clearance in these areas and the enhanced enforcement of laws related to trespass, illegal fires and campsites in the hillsides prior to days of elevated fire danger.

PRESENTED BY


PAUL KORETZ
Councilmember, 5th District

SECONDED BY



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