

MAY 02 2008

RESOLUTION RULES & GOVERNMENT

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations, or policies proposed before a local state or federal government body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, the theft of copper and other materials from telephone and power lines, construction sites, power generators, air conditioning units, irrigation pipes, and other sources is a growing problem in the City of Los Angeles; and

WHEREAS, these stolen metals and materials are sold to junk-dealers and recyclers for quick cash, and law enforcement agencies throughout the state have found increased property crime and drug sales occurrences in the immediate vicinity of such facilities; and

WHEREAS, other cities and states have laws that require junk dealers and recyclers to make records of individuals that sell them metals, which can then be used to help police and investigators identify and find metal thieves; and

WHEREAS, State Senator Calderon recently introduced SB 691, which would require junk dealers and recyclers to comply with additional recordkeeping requirements and new payment restrictions when purchasing nonferrous materials (i.e., copper, copper alloys, stainless steel, and aluminum, excluding aluminum cans); and

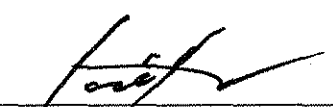
WHEREAS, as recently amended, SB 691 requires monthly communication between dealers and law enforcement, increases fines, requires a thumbprint of the seller, requires convicted thieves to pay the victim for the value of the property stolen and collateral damage caused by the theft; and

WHEREAS, as amended, SB 691 is a stronger law with harsher penalties which will send a clear message that metal theft will not be dealt with lightly in the State of California; and

WHEREAS, the City of Los Angeles should support laws that increase record keeping requirements for junk dealers and recyclers dealing in scrap metal, as they could significantly aid Los Angeles police in identifying and bringing metal thieves to justice;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2007-2008 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for the amended version of SB 691 (Calderon), which would require junk dealers and recyclers to comply with additional recordkeeping requirements and new payment restrictions when purchasing scrap metal.

PRESENTED BY: 
TOM LABONGE
Councilman, 4th District


JOSE HUIZAR
Councilman, 14th District

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WB
08-0002-541

SECONDED BY: 
Janice Kahan, 15th District