

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HILDA L. SOLIS

November 26, 2024

Establish a Reward Offer in the Investigation of the Copper Thefts in Hacienda Heights

Copper wire theft has been a growing problem in various parts of the U.S. in recent years. The rise in these crimes can be attributed to several factors including the high value of copper. The price of copper has risen significantly over the years, up to 30%, and is a highly sought-after material due to its value in the market. The global demand for copper, particularly from industries like construction, manufacturing, and electronics, has increased. It's used extensively in electrical wiring, telecommunications cables, and other applications. As a result, copper wire theft is more prevalent in areas such as utility infrastructure.

Since April 2024, there have been approximately 23 incidents of copper thefts, resulting in the destruction of property and utility service posts in Hacienda Heights. However, since November 2024 copper wire thefts have further surged, including thefts to Frontier Communications utility service posts resulting in residents being without internet and landline phone service.

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It is estimated that these thefts, since April, have resulted in a total of 23,000 linear feet of stolen wire, equivalent to 4.5 miles of copper wire, and damage to utility service posts. The cost alone in labor and materials to repair these costly incidents will be approximately \$1,000,000, not including costs for law enforcement response. Investigators are actively working on this case.

This reward is to encourage members of the public to contact the investigators with any and all information that will help bring justice to this case. Frontier Communications has also offered its own \$5,000 reward in hopes that this will incentivize members of the public to come forward with information. Any individuals with information about this crime are urged to contact the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Industry Station. If anyone has any information related to these incidents, please contact Deputy Thomas D. Wilson III, Industry Sheriff's Station County SAO Team at (626) 330-3322. For those who wish to remain anonymous, please contact Crime Stoppers at (800) 222-8477.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors establish a \$20,000.00 reward in exchange for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person(s) responsible for the heinous destruction of property from copper thefts to utility service posts occurring in Hacienda Heights since April 2024.

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