



**For Immediate Release - November 22, 2017**

**Councilmember Englander Submits Motion to Expand Cyber Security Tools for L.A. Small Businesses**

Councilmember Englander submitted a motion today to expand cyber security services accessible to small businesses in Los Angeles. The motion directs the Economic and Workforce Development Department and the City's Information Technology Agency to develop training programs that can be offered at all Citywide Business Source Centers as well as identifying possible funding sources for this training.

"Every business is a victim cyber attacks, even when they don't know it," Councilmember Englander said. "Small and family-owned businesses represent a critical sector of Los Angeles' economy. With Small Business Saturday just a few days away, we need to recognize the new and emerging threats to businesses in Los Angeles and ensure that they have the tools to protect themselves."

In August, Councilmember Englander joined Mayor Garcetti to launch the L.A. CyberLab, a public-private partnership that disseminates information and intelligence based on analysis of more than one billion security-related events and over four million attempted intrusions into City networks per day. However, while large businesses may have the resources and capacity to swiftly adapt to cyber threats, small businesses may struggle, leaving themselves vulnerable to hacking.

This motion will develop programming that small businesses can access free-of-charge in order to protect their employees, customers, and operations.

A copy of the motion is attached below.

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MOTION

Small businesses are engines of economic growth and a vital part of the local economy. In Los Angeles County, there are approximately 200,000 small businesses that provide about half of the 3.5 million private sector, local jobs.

According to the study *2017 State of Cybersecurity in Small and Medium-Sized Businesses* conducted by the Ponemon Institute, an independent entity that conducts research on privacy, data protection and information security policy, 61 percent of businesses experienced a cyber attack in the past 12 months. Additionally, the U.S. National Cyber Security Alliance found that 60 percent of small companies are unable to sustain their businesses for more than six months after experiencing a cyber attack.

Small businesses are especially at risk of cyber attacks due to their size, lack of skilled IT staff and limited budget allocated to cyber security measures. The Ponemon Institute’s study reports that 63 percent of small businesses do not have an adequate budget to protect themselves from cyber attacks and 62 percent of small businesses do not have in-house expertise to achieve a strong cybersecurity defense.

Undoubtedly, small businesses are in dire need of resources and assistance to help defend themselves from cyber attacks. As vital contributors to our economy and communities, it is in the City’s best interest to assist small businesses by helping to identify resources to combat cyber attacks.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Economic and Workforce Development Department and the Information Technology Agency be instructed to report on best practices to protect small businesses from cyber-attacks.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Economic and Workforce Development Department and the Information Technology Agency be instructed to include in their report the feasibility and estimated cost of offering cyber security training at all Citywide Business Source Centers.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Economic and Workforce Development Department and the Information Technology Agency be instructed to include in their report any possible funding sources for this training, including but not limited to the Innovation Fund.

PRESENTED BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
MITCHELL ENGLANDER  
Councilmember, 12<sup>th</sup> District

SECONDED BY: \_\_\_\_\_