

Westside Regional Alliance of Councils

Bel Air Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council
Brentwood Community Council
Del Rey Neighborhood Council
Mar Vista Community Council
Pacific Palisades Community Council
Palms Neighborhood Council

South Robertson Neighborhoods Council
Neighborhood Council of Westchester-Playa
West LA Neighborhood Council
Westside Neighborhood Council
Westwood Community Council
Westwood Neighborhood Council
Venice Neighborhood Council

January 4, 2011

VIA E-MAIL:

Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa
Los Angeles City Councilmembers
200 N. Spring Street,
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Council File 05-1853-S1

Dear Mayor and Councilmembers:

Date: 10-19-11
Submitted in Budget Committee
Council File No: 05-1853
Item No.: 132
Deputy: [Signature]

The Westside Regional Alliance of Councils (WRAC) was formed in 2008, and is made up of the thirteen above referenced Neighborhood and Community Councils. The WRAC was formed to provide a forum for the discussion and review of issues of interest to the Westside of Los Angeles on a region-wide basis, and to be an advocate for its member councils in dealing with governmental and private entities on issues we collectively deem important to our region. Each member council designates a voting delegate to the WRAC, and those delegates make up the WRAC's governing Board.

The member organizations of WRAC have approved the attached motion, or motions with substantially similar language and intent, opposing proposed ordinance CF 05-1853-S1, amending Subsection (e) of Section 62.104 of the LAMC to transfer liability and responsibility to property owners for repair of curbs, driveways and sidewalks due to tree root damage.¹

Sidewalk damage caused by roots from trees in the public parkway is beyond the control of adjacent property owners. Property owners in most cases have not planted the offending trees and are not permitted to remove them.

Furthermore, a key element of concern to our group is the transfer of liability to property owners for trip and fall accidents when they are not in a position to manage or eliminate the liability. This is unfair and unacceptable. As such, we request that you oppose the proposed ordinance as written.

We feel that the issues addressed in these motions are not only of vital importance to the Westside, but also necessarily concern all of Los Angeles, which does not break down conveniently by district lines. As such, we would appreciate a formal response from each of you

¹ Please note that Palms Neighborhood Council abstained on this vote, and the Westwood Neighborhood Council had not yet formed a governing Board, and as such, has not considered this issue.

with respect to your positions on this issue. Please feel free to contact me at mnewhouse@newhouseseroussi.com with your thoughts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike R. Newhouse". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "M" and "N".

Mike Newhouse
Chair

Cc: WRAC delegates and alternates