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May 31, 2010

Honorable Councilmember Paul Krekorian  
200 N. Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**Send by Email and FAX**

Re: Sidewalk Repair

Dear Councilmember Krekorian:

The SCNC is opposed to the proposed ordinance that would repeal Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 62.104, thereby shifting responsibility for sidewalk repair to the property owner. In 1974 the city adopted the aforementioned municipal code, recognizing the city's obligation to repair sidewalks damaged by trees planted by the city. Now, faced with fiscal shortfalls and concern over liability, the city is attempting to renege on its responsibility with little or no notice to the citizens of Los Angeles.

The issue of sidewalk repair is not new. It has been discussed and debated within the council for several years. In fact, last year the Public Works Committee passed a motion instructing the Bureau of Street Services (BSS) to conduct a citywide outreach. However, the SCNC did not receive notice that such outreach has taken place. Most stakeholders are unaware the City is considering this action.

The proposal before you places the legal responsibility on the property owner without outreach to the community as required by the directive to BSS. Before shifting the responsibility to the property owner, the City of Los Angeles MUST:

- Demand that the BSS conduct a comprehensive outreach effort to ALL Neighborhood Councils in each of the seven City Planning areas. If they listen to Neighborhood Councils, they will most likely discover a sincere willingness to seek and share solutions to this "quality of life" issue;
- Conduct an analysis to determine insurance liability and insurance affordability as both insurance questions relate to property owners and the City alike.