

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA

JUNE LAGMAY
City Clerk

HOLLY L. WOLCOTT
Executive Officer



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MAYOR

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May 4, 2010

To All Interested Parties:

The City Council adopted the action(s), as attached, under
Council file No. 09-2605, at its meeting held April 30, 2010.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'June Lagmay', is written over a faint circular stamp.

City Clerk
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COMMUNICATION

File No. 09-2605

TO: THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES
FROM: JOSE HUIZAR, CHAIR
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

COMMUNICATION FROM CHAIR, PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE relative to increasing the penalty for illegal tree pruning.

Recommendations for Council action:

1. NOTE and FILE the Motion (Koretz - LaBonge) relative to increasing the penalty for illegal tree pruning, inasmuch as this matter has been addressed by way of Council File No. 09-1664.
2. DIRECT the Department of Public Works to report to Council in 60 days in regard to implementation of Council's September 22, 2009 action under Council File No. 09-1664 amending Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) Sections 46.00 and 62.162 granting the authority to specified employees of the Bureau of Street Services (BOSS) to issue administrative citations resulting in monetary fines for the violation of ordinances protecting the urban forest.

Fiscal Impact Statement: Neither the City Administrative Officer or the Chief Legislative Analyst has completed a financial analysis of this report.

Community Impact Statement Submitted: No

SUMMARY

On April 21, 2010, the Chair of the Public Works Committee considered a Motion (Koretz - LaBonge) relative to increasing the penalty for illegal tree pruning. According to the Motion, the illegal removal of street trees is a serious problem requiring a serious response. In the recent past, the Board of Public Works and Council have considered various proposals to strengthen the City's crackdown on those who illegally cut down trees without permits - including a current proposal to make this an administrative process with significant fines. Additionally, residents sometimes need to prune street trees without intending to run afoul of the City's permitting requirements. Nevertheless, it is important for our neighborhoods and the environment that those who illegally trim these important city assets face real consequences when the illegal pruning was done intentionally or for commercial gain.

Next, the City's Chief Forester stated that the issues raised in the above Motion have already been addressed by way of Council File No. 09-1664. Specifically, on September 22, 2009, Council requested the City Attorney to prepare and present an Ordinance to amend LAMC Sections 46.00 and 62.162 granting the authority to specified employees of the Bureau of Street Services to issue administrative citations resulting in monetary fines for the violation of ordinances protecting the urban forest.

After consideration and having provided an opportunity for public comment, the Committee Chair moved to note and file the Motion and recommend directing the Department of Public Works to

report back to Council in 60 days on progress made in implementing the changes made through Council File No. 09-1664. This matter is now submitted to Council for its consideration.

Respectfully submitted,



COUNCILMEMBER JOSE HUIZAR, CHAIR
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

ADOPTED

APR 30 2010

LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
HUIZAR:	YES
ALARCÓN:	ABSENT
SMITH:	ABSENT

ARL
4/22/10
#092605

- Not Official Until Council Acts -