

From: Janet Kleinbart <jplanetc@pacbell.net>
To: <Lauraine.Braithwaite@lacity.org>, <paul.koretz@lacity.org>
Date: 04/04/2010 11:03 PM
Subject: Fwd: Council File #10-0529

Begin forwarded message:

> From: Janet Kleinbart <jplanetc@pacbell.net>
> Date: April 4, 2010 10:55:18 PM PDT
> To: cpc@lacity.org
> Cc: planning@lacity.org, councilmember.reyes@lacity.org,
> councilmember.greuel@lacity.org, councilmember.zine@lacity.org,
> councilmember.Labonge@lacity.org, councilmember.weiss@lacity.org,
> councilmember.cardenas@lacity.org, councilmember.parks@lacity.org,
> Jan.Perry@lacity.org, Councilman Herb Wessen
> <councilmember.wesson@lacity.org>, Councilman Bill Rosendahl
> <councilman.rosendahl@lacity.org>, councilmember.smith@lacity.org,
> councilmember.garcetti@lacity.org, councilmember.huizar@lacity.org,
> councilmember.hahn@lacity.org, Dennis Hathaway <venicedd@gmail.com>
> Subject: Council File #10-0529
>
>
> RE: Council File#10-0529
>
> Our sign laws must be vigorously enforced.
> Illegal signs are ILLEGAL. That is what laws are, LAW. Law promotes
> order.
>
>
> Do you like that print size in your face? Well we taxpaying
> members of our communities don't like the illegal oversized signs
> in our faces either. Violators should be prosecuted accordingly and
> the signs removed as aggressively as they are put up.
>
> Text of Koretz Motion:
>
> For many years, some outdoor advertising companies and building
> owners have chosen to flagrantly ignore City sign laws by illegally
> erecting or modifying billboards and giant supergraphic signs. The
> actions of these scofflaws have endangered the safety of the public
> and exposed us all to a bombardment of unregulated visual clutter
> and aesthetic
> degradation. Illegal billboards and supergraphic signs negatively
> impact vast portions of our City.
>
> Last August, the City Council took a bold and aggressive step in
> stopping out-of-control outdoor advertising when it enacted into
> law an outright ban on any new billboards and supergraphic signs.
> Additionally, over the past month, the City Attorney's Office
> initiated a crack down on those who violate the City's sign laws.
> The aggressive enforcement efforts of the City Attorney's Office
> have already made a significance difference. Giant illegal
> supergraphic signs are starting to come down. We hope that the City
> Attorney's stepped up enforcement is just beginning, but we have

- > learned that a critical resource to this enforcement effort is
- > lacking - experienced investigators.
- >
- > In order to continue these enforcement efforts, the City Attorney's
- > Office needs experienced investigators as soon as possible to
- > support the investigations and prosecutions. Some of the critical
- > functions performed by investigators
- > include: 1. identifying, locating and interviewing witnesses; 2.
- > organizing and conducting undercover operations; 3. documenting
- > sign installations for use as evidence in court; 4. researching the
- > identity of those who install, own and manufacture illegal signs
- > and those who contract to allow the signs to be installed on their
- > buildings; 5. performing
- > record and background checks on individual and corporate suspects
- > and defendants and conducting asset searches; and, 6. locating
- > defendants for service of process and/or arrest, serving subpoenas
- > and assisting in executing search
- > warrants.
- >
- > Fortunately, there is an available source of funding to assist the
- > City Attorney's Office in getting the experienced investigators
- > that it needs to continue the office's successful crack down. The
- > funds come pursuant to a settlement that the City entered into in
- > 2003 to allow continued signage at the Westwood Medical Building by
- > the supergraphic
- > sign company Skytag. WW Westwood v. City of Los Angeles, US
- > District Court Case No. SACV 01-294 DOC (ANX). Approximately
- > \$600,000 is presently available from this settlement. Additionally,
- > the City continues to accrue revenue from this settlement. It is
- > only appropriate that this money derived from signage be dedicated
- > to the City Attorney Office's stepped up enforcement against sign
- > violations. In addition, these funds will allow this Council to
- > rehire recently laid off employees and/or save jobs of employees
- > facing imminent layoff, particularly 1) investigators in various
- > departments around the City and/or 2) current Building and Safety
- > employees or inspectors in other departments facing layoff. .
- >
- > I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council authorize the Chief
- > Administrative Officer and the City Controller to transfer the
- > funds as necessary from the Fund 100, Department 12, Balance Sheet
- > Account 2200 Miscellaneous Deposits to the appropriate account to
- > support the investigative staffing needs of the City Attorney's
- > Office. I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council instruct the Personnel
- > Department with the assistance of the Chief Administrative Officer
- > work to determine which recently laid off employees and/or
- > employees slated for layoff are available to perform this work.

From: Chris Van Hook <ccvanhook@gmail.com>
To: <Lauraine.Braithwaite@lacity.org>
Date: 04/04/2010 1:29 AM
Subject: koretz motion

please support the koretz motion and stop these horrible billboards
companies from ruining our city!!!!!!!!!! i am in europe now in barcelona
and venice and the
beauty is astounding compared to our city which is filled with billboards
and which should be beautiful...

From: Dan Silver <dsilverla@me.com>
To: <Lauraine.Braithwaite@lacity.org>
Date: 04/04/2010 1:25 PM
Subject: Council File # 10-0529 - SUPPORT

Dear Mayor and Councilmembers:

I strongly support this action to vigorously enforce the City's sign laws. Please enact it.

Sincerely,

Dan Silver, Executive Director
Endangered Habitats League
8424 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite A 592
Los Angeles, CA 90069-4267

213-804-2750
dsilverla@me.com
www.ehleague.org

From: Christi Schimpke <christischimpke@gmail.com>
To: <Lauraine.Braithwaite@lacity.org>, <Councilmember.Parks@lacity.org>, <co...
Date: 04/04/2010 3:04 PM
Subject: Council File#10-0529

Dear Council Members,

We are writing in support of the motion by Councilperson Koretz to transfer \$600,000 to the City Attorney's office, from the special fund created by the SkyTag, Inc. settlement agreement, in order to fund enforcement actions to rid the City of unpermitted billboards, as well as supergraphics and digital billboards. We strongly support the City Attorney's actions to clean-up LA's visual environment once and for all, and we urge the Council to provide the resources to make it happen. We would also urge the Council to increase dramatically the fines to be paid by scofflaws, both to fund additional enforcement efforts and to deter illegal signs. We respectfully ask that you vote in favor of Councilperson Koretz's motion on Monday, April 5, 2010.

Respectfully,

Christi and Dan Schimpke

310-415-6064

From: <Robertags@aol.com>
To: <LAURINE.BRAITHWAITE@LACITY.ORG>
Date: 04/04/2010 5:15 PM
Subject: SUPPORT FOR CF 10-0529

Please support the motion to provide financial backing to protect our City from billboard blight.

Roberta Schiller
3225 Midvale
L.A., CA 9034

From: <MLacter@aol.com>
To: <LAURINE.BRAITHWAITE@LACITY.ORG>
Date: 04/04/2010 5:31 PM
Subject: funds for billboard enforcement

As a resident of Los Angeles, I urge you to transfer funds from an earlier billboard settlement case to continue funding the critical City Attorney billboard and supergraphic enforcement action against those who continue to defy the sign laws.

My concerns include:

- * The safety of residents, firefighters, tenants, pedestrians at risk because of these signs
- * Enhancing the quality of life by eliminating blight
- * Retaining skilled investigators whose jobs might otherwise be eliminated
- * Adding fines and penalties from sign scofflaws to shrinking City revenues

Thank you for working on behalf of residents concerned about these issues.
Mark Lacter & Laura Levine

From: a stek <stek@usc.edu>
To: <Lauraine.Braithwaite@lacity.org>
Date: 04/04/2010 6:54 PM
Subject: Council File#10-0529

Dear Ms. Braithwaite,

Please note my support for the motion, by Councilman Paul Koretz, calling for the transfer of \$600,000 to the City Attorney's office from a special fund from the Skytag Westwood settlement, for enforcement of efforts against billboard/advertising blight.

Thank you.

Alice Stek, MD
Venice

From: "MICHAELZZ" <michaelzz@att.net>
To: <LAURINE.BRAITHWAITE@LACITY.ORG>
CC: <Monique.Earl@lacity.org>
Date: 04/04/2010 6:54 PM
Subject: Supporting CF 10-0529

Hello,

I am a home owner in zip code 90024. I support CF 10-0529.

--Signage enforcement is very important-- Rewards those who follow the law and punishes those who flaunt the law (thus leveling the playing field which creates a good business climate). Maintains City's credibility before the courts.

--Using the proceeds from a signage lawsuit to hire/retain inspectors and put people back to work doing investigation and enforcement is a productive budget move that is good for the economy by keeping those individuals employed. It assures that the City retains skilled staff that might otherwise be lost.

--Enforcement action is good for the budget by bringing fines and penalties to the city from billboard violators

--Enforcement is good for quality of life in the city by controlling visual blight

--Enforcement is an important public safety activity of the City whose charge is to protect citizens, tenants, firefighters, pedestrians, etc.

Thanks.

Michael.

From: Amy Thogmartin <athogmartin@gmail.com>
To: <Lauraine.Braithwaite@lacity.org>, <Councilmember.Parks@lacity.org>, <co...
CC: <Monique.Earl@lacity.org>, <nicole.bernson@lacity.org>, <ana.cubas@lacity...
Date: 04/04/2010 8:00 PM
Subject: Council File#10-0529

Please note that I want our sign laws vigorously enforced.
Do not allow the supergraphics and billboard ad companies to continue those activities that create blight, fire and other public safety hazards, and treat our city's visual landscape as nothing more than a canvas for selling products and services.
Thank you,
Amy Thogmartin

From: "Phil Raider" <philraider@msn.com>
To: <Lauraine.Braithwaite@lacity.org>, <Councilmember.Parks@lacity.org>, <Mo...>
Date: 04/04/2010 8:40 PM
Subject: Council File#10-0529

Dear Council Members

We can't urge you strongly enough to support Council Member Koretz in his efforts to fund the on going fight against illegal bill boards and super graphics. City Attorney Trutanich is on the right track.

Please give him the funds to carry on.

WE WANT TO SEE OUR SIGN LAWS VIGOROUSLY ENFORCED
AND LAW BREAKERS FINED THE MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE BY LAW

Phil Raider & Roberta Tishman

From: Stephen Resnick <saresnick@gmail.com>
To: <LAURINE.BRAITHWAITE@LACITY.ORG>, <Councilmember.Parks@lacity.org>, <co...>
CC: <Monique.Earl@lacity.org>, <NICOLE.BERNSON@LACITY.ORG>, <ana.cubas@lacity.org>
Date: 04/04/2010 10:01 PM
Subject: Continued billboard and supergraphic sign enforcement efforts of the City Attorney's office - Motion (CF 10-0529)

Councilmembers,

I support the Koretz/Zine motion to continue the enforcement of the City Attorney's billboard and supergraphic sign efforts. Following are reasons to support this motion.

- Signage enforcement is very important-- Rewards those who follow the law and punishes those who flaunt the law (thus leveling the playing field which creates a good business climate). Maintains City's credibility before the courts.
- Using the proceeds from a signage lawsuit to hire/retain inspectors and put people back to work doing investigation and enforcement is a productive budget move that is good for the economy by keeping those individuals employed. It assures that the City retains skilled staff that might otherwise be lost.
- Enforcement action is good for the budget by bringing fines and penalties to the city from billboard violators
- Enforcement is good for quality of life in the city by controlling visual blight
- Enforcement is an important public safety activity of the City whose charge is to protect citizens, tenants, firefighters, pedestrians, etc.

Thank you.

Stephen Resnick, President
Westwood Homeowners Association

From: Derek Ryder <ekiture@yahoo.com>
To: <Lauraine.Braithwaite@lacity.org>
Date: 04/04/2010 11:52 PM
Subject: RE: Council File#10-0529

Dear LA City Council Finance Committee members:

I am strongly in favor of the Koretz motion to increase funding for the sign ordinance enforcement program. Please make the billboard companies follow the law.

Sincerely,

Derek Ryder
980 N. Hoover Street
Los Angeles, CA 90029