

13-1604

PUBLIC WORKS & GANG REDUCTION

Motion

In the immediate aftermath of the Chatsworth Metrolink Train Crash in 2008, families paid tribute to their loved ones by displaying several dozen memorials on Chatsworth Street. Understanding that the community needed a place for grieving and of remembrance, a permanent memorial was commissioned and placed at Stoney Point Park. While permanent memorials are constructed in remembrance of life lost in tragedy, that's not always the case.

Informal street memorials are commonly embraced as a way to honor loved ones, especially those that have lost their lives in traffic collisions. Throughout the City, we have seen memorials set up in the public right-of-way as a place of grieving, whether it be family members placing pictures, candle light vigils, to more organized memorials such as the ones placed by Ghost Bikes. Given the number of hit and run collisions that happen every year, an estimated 20,000 according to a recent Los Angeles Police Department report, it is important that the City of Los Angeles be thoughtful about its policies as it pertains to street memorials.

Currently, the City municipal code stipulates that all items blocking the public right-of-way must be immediately removed. While the Investigation and Enforcement Division of Bureau of Street Services and the Bureau of Sanitation do their best to be sensitive to the families in mourning, because of the ad hoc and temporary nature of these memorials, notification for removal can be difficult to achieve. We need a clear process to address the placement and removal of these memorials.

Additionally, there is inconsistent policies pertaining to street memorials, including the duration a memorial can possibly remain in the public right-of-way, which department is responsible for the notification and which for the removal, who to contact for notification of removal, and the notification process, since some memorials are removed without any notification.

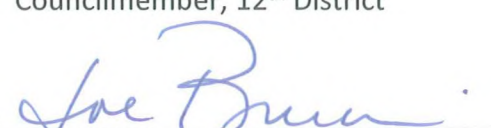
I THEREFORE instruct the Bureau of Street Services and the Bureau of Sanitation to report to the Public Works and Gang Reduction Committee, to establish compassionate guidelines and policies to allow for the display and removal of temporary street memorials being placed in the public right-of-way, being sensitive to the families grieving over their lost loved ones.

PRESENTED BY:



MITCHELL ENGLANDER
Councilmember, 12th District

SECONDED BY:





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