

MOTION

The pervasiveness of trash in the public right-of-way, including streets, sidewalks, medians, and alleys, is a problem of growing concern in the City of Los Angeles. The City receives an average of 200 requests per day through 311 for illegal dumping, debris, and other trash-related nuisances and trash is consistently one of the top three reported issues. Ongoing problems with litter in the public right-of-way pose safety concerns and affect the quality of life for all those who live, work, and visit the City.

The Clean Streets LA Initiative, launched in 2015 by Mayor Garcetti, establishes the goal to better maintain public streets and walkways by creating a monitoring system and database for trash, increasing the number of trash receptacles and sanitation workers, and more. Despite overall improvements since the implementation of Clean Streets LA, many main commercial and residential corridors continue to be disproportionately impacted by trash, particularly in high density and low income neighborhoods.

Litter pick-up is currently a reactive service that is almost exclusively focused on bulky items and illegal dumping. The Department of Public Works Bureau of Sanitation responds to trash-related requests by deploying teams of highly trained City employees whose skills are often needed for more complex projects.


Daily litter maintenance should be outsourced to social justice organizations that have both the capacity to meet the City's need and ability to assist vulnerable individuals. The Transitional Job Opportunities Program (TJOP), established in 2005, gives a preference in the bid process to organizations that hire and provide supportive services to transitional employees, defined as the hard-to-employ and those who face barriers to employment. The TJOP is one of several targeted hire goals, like the Local Business Preference Program, that the City strives to achieve. With homelessness on the rise by 20% from 2016, initiatives like the TJOP can be leveraged to create job opportunities for homeless or individuals vulnerable to becoming homeless.

The process by which the City manages graffiti abatement is an example of a successful program in which entry level services are outsourced to contractors who hire transitional workers. Many also offer their participants shelter and housing assistance, educational and skill-building courses, and other supportive services to ease their transition back into the workforce and out of homelessness. Over 80% of the employees who work in the graffiti abatement program also live in the City of Los Angeles.

By utilizing social justice organizations to clear litter from the public right-of-way, the City is able to support its homeless population, expand local and transitional hiring goals, further the mission of the Clean Streets Initiative, and identify savings. There is a low barrier to entry in contracting with these organizations with high rewards that benefit the City and its constituents alike.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Administrative Officer with the assistance of the Department of Public Works, Bureau of Sanitation, Office of Community Beautification, and other departments, as needed, report with recommendations to establish a framework for a pilot program that would employ homeless individuals to clean proactively litter from the public right-of-way on a regular, ongoing basis.

PRESENTED BY:


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SECONDED BY: 