

13-0941

JUL 24 2013

**PUBLIC WORKS AND GANG  
REDUCTION**

**MOTION**

**BUDGET & FINANCE**

The City of Los Angeles has an estimated 10,750 miles of sidewalks. Sidewalks comprise a vast network of pedestrian walkways linking neighborhoods and communities both residential and commercial. Since a community's health and livability is reflected in the condition of its sidewalks, then the City should promote efforts by property owners to repair damaged sidewalks.

Both the State Improvement Act of 1911 and Section 62.104 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) place the responsibility for sidewalk construction, reconstruction and repair on the adjoining property owner, with the exception of damage resulting from tree roots. The City has provided significant resources, including the successful 50/50 program, to further the repair of damaged sidewalks.

The City has for sometime sought solutions to the growing number of damaged City sidewalks. While the City continues to work on long-term solutions, it should encourage property owner initiated sidewalk repairs.

Sidewalk repair requires an "A" permit from the Bureau of Engineering and the payment of a fee that includes an inspection of the work performed. The permit fee is a flat rate of \$265, the inspection fee is charged at \$0.85 a square foot, and there are additional surcharges. So a relatively small sidewalk repair could result in significant additional cost to the property owner in the range of \$500 to \$600.

If permit fees were eliminated, more property owners would assuredly be willing to undertake sidewalk repairs. This small decrease in City revenue would increase property owner initiated sidewalk repairs. This proposal is consistent with current fee exceptions in the LAMC for damaged sidewalks caused by subsidence, pavement failure, earthquake or trees.

**I THEREFORE MOVE** that the City Attorney, with the cooperation and assistance of the Bureaus of Engineering and Street Services, be requested to prepare and present an ordinance amending the Los Angeles Municipal Code to eliminate any fees associated with sidewalk construction, reconstruction and repair that is undertaken by the adjoining property owner.

PRESENTED BY: Joe Buscaino  
JOE BUSCAINO  
Councilmember, 15<sup>th</sup> District

SECONDED BY: Gilbert Cedillo

ORIGINAL

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