

MOTION

The City of Los Angeles' urban forest consists of plantings on private property, street trees, native trees, understory, and parks and open spaces. Street trees are those planted in the public right-of-way such as parkways and median islands. The Bureau of Street Services (BSS), Urban Forestry Division maintains roughly 700,000 street trees across the City. In recent months, several detailed reports have been issued acknowledging the importance of the City's urban forest and the need to improve the City's management and protection of its trees.

In 2015, Council instructed various City Departments to report with recommendations to increase the penalties and fines for the unpermitted pruning and removal of street trees (C.F. 15-0448, 18-0600-S86). In September 2016, the BSS Investigation and Enforcement Division was authorized to begin using the Administrative Citation Enforcement (ACE) Program as an enforcement tool to combat illegal tree removal and pruning. BSS is now authorized to issue administrative citations to penalize individuals violating LAMC Sections 62.169(a), 62.171, and 62.174 and to track repeat offenders (CF 14-0818- S2). Despite this, communities across the City continue to report violations of the City's prohibition on the illegal removal and pruning of street trees.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council instruct the Bureau of Street Services, with the assistance of the City Attorney, to report as follows: (1) with an evaluation of the effectiveness of enforcing Los Angeles Municipal Code Sections 62.169(a), 62.171, and 62.174 through the Administrative Citation Enforcement (ACE) Program; and, (2) an analysis of potential options for strengthening enforcement and deterrence of the illegal pruning and removal of street trees, including but not limited to increasing fines, dedicating more resources to enforcement, and establishing more robust reporting and response mechanisms.

PRESENTED BY:

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