

MOTION PUBLIC WORKS & GANG REDUCTION

Business Improvement Districts and non-profits often attempt to implement community beautification and placemaking projects throughout the City. For example, last year, a non-profit organization installed temporary wayfinding sidewalk symbols near the Lincoln/Cypress Metro Station to help pedestrians safely navigate in and around the station. Similarly, a stretch of Avalon Boulevard in Wilmington received sidewalk art and furniture as part of Mayor Garcetti's Great Streets Initiative. In both of these examples, due to lack of a suitable alternative, the projects were approved through the R-Permit process.

The R-Permit issued by the Bureau of Engineering was initially designed and intended for large-scale infrastructure projects in the public right-of-way. However, the R-Permit is also deemed necessary for quick and simple design interventions that call for paint, vinyl stickers, and movable furniture, making these projects cumbersome, time-consuming, and expensive.

The City of Los Angeles should encourage community beautification projects in the public right-of-way by making their approval processes as simple and affordable as possible.

The Adopt-A-Median Program, established in 1988 by the Board of Public Works, was designed as a way to empower neighborhoods to initiate and engage in community beautification efforts. Administered by the Office of Community Beautification, the Program is a tool to promote community involvement through landscape and streetscape projects, foster a sense of community pride and ownership, and enhance neighborhood aesthetics. While the Adopt-A-Median Program has been successful in achieving these goals, it is limited in scope.

There is untapped potential in the Adopt-A-Median Program and, if expanded to include all simple beautification projects in every public right-of-way, could satisfy the needs and desires of those interested in implementing beautification projects.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Chief Legislative Analyst, with the assistance of the Office of Community Beautification, Board of Public Works, and Bureau of Engineering be DIRECTED to report with recommendations to broaden the scope and of the Adopt-A-Median Program, or to create a new parallel program, to include all community beautification projects on all public rights-of-way, including sidewalks, plazas, staircases, parking spaces, and beyond.

PRESENTED BY: Joe Buscaino
JOE BUSCAINO
Councilmember, 15th District

CO-PRESENTED BY: Bob Blumenfeld
BOB BLUMENFIELD
Councilmember, 3rd District

SECONDED BY: [Signature]

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