

PUBLIC WORKS AND GANG REDUCTION COMMITTEE REPORT relative to the City's Tree Trimming and Maintenance Program.

Recommendations for Council action:

1. INSTRUCT the Bureau of Street Services (BSS) to report with a detailed implementation plan for the completion of a Street Tree Inventory, including a(n):
 - a. Analysis of the feasibility of utilizing technology-based strategies identified in the Controller's February 21, 2019 report, attached to the Council file, to ensure efficiency and accuracy in data collection.
 - b. Discussion of BSS's efforts to collaborate and coordinate with the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP), the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP), County of Los Angeles, and the private sector to determine how best to complete the Street Tree Inventory.
 - c. Plan to coordinate and partner with the LADWP to compile and share Street Tree Inventory and maintenance data.
2. INSTRUCT the BSS to report on the development and implementation of a centralized system to manage the Street Tree Inventory and to manage and inform maintenance operations. The report should include an analysis of the forestry management system utilized by RAP and evaluate whether the system can be customized to, at a minimum, integrate work order and inventory management functions, including reports made through MyLA311, and provide dynamic inventory and maintenance report capabilities.
3. INSTRUCT the BSS, and REQUEST the Community Forest Advisory Committee, to review street tree maintenance and trimming practices among City departments that perform tree trimming functions.
4. INSTRUCT the BSS to report with an analysis and recommendations to improve the City's 2 to 1 street tree replacement policy, including, but not limited to: consideration of the holistic value of a tree slated for removal based on the tree's health, maturity and canopy size, and an evaluation of the existing tree planting in lieu fee to ensure the City achieves full cost recovery.
5. INSTRUCT the BSS to report with alternative sidewalk design options, that adhere to Americans with Disabilities Act requirements.
6. INSTRUCT the BSS and City Administrative Officer (CAO) to report with cost estimates and budget recommendations for the hiring of a Director of Community Forestry and additional staff.

Fiscal Impact Statement: None submitted by the Controller. Neither the CAO nor the Chief Legislative Analyst has completed a financial analysis of this report.

Community Impact Statement: None submitted.

SUMMARY

At the meeting held on March 20, 2019, your Public Works and Gang Reduction Committee considered a Controller report relative to the City's Tree Trimming and Maintenance Program. The Controller reports that a vibrant and well-maintained urban forest provides significant environmental, social, and economic benefits that improve quality of life for residents. Multiple City departments are responsible for maintaining trees under the care and control of the City: BSS/Urban Forestry Division; LADWP; and RAP. Collectively, these departments spent approximately \$49 million on tree maintenance activities in Fiscal Year 2017-18.

Street trees are located in parkways (i.e., landscaped areas between the curb and sidewalk) and median islands. Overgrown or damaged street trees present a public safety risk because they can: impede the public right-of-way; cause harm to pedestrians or property as a result of fallen trees/branches or sidewalks buckled by tree roots; or interfere with power lines. Although many of these trees are considered to be owned by the adjacent property owner, the City is responsible for caring for street trees and ensuring the public right-of-way is clear of tree-related hazards. After an opportunity for public comment was held, the Committee moved to approve the recommendations made in Committee, as detailed above. This matter is now forwarded to the Council for its consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

PUBLIC WORKS AND GANG REDUCTION COMMITTEE



<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
BLUMENFIELD:	YES
RYU:	YES
BUSCAINO:	YES
O'FARRELL	YES
MARTINEZ:	YES

ME 3/20/19

-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-