

## MOTION PUBLIC WORKS AND GANG REDUCTION

According to the 2019 Weed and Brush Abatement ordinance, there are over 5,000 vacant lots in the City. Unfortunately, many of these properties are owned by absentee property owners who allow them to become blighted with overgrown weeds and strewn with trash. Under a process authorized by State law (California Government Code sections 39560 - 39588) and Los Angeles Administrative Code section 22.325.1, annually, the City Council declares the properties to be a public nuisance and orders property owners to abate the nuisance. If the owners do not comply, the Bureau of Street Services (BSS) will clean the lots included in the annual Weed and Brush Abatement ordinance and bill the property owners. Each year, the majority of the vacant lots included in the ordinance and that are cleaned by BSS are the same lots that were included in the previous year's ordinance, the year before that, and so on. This is likely because property owners see this fee as a nominal additional expense on their already-low property tax bill and they are not otherwise additionally penalized for allowing blight and the underutilization of vacant land in our communities.

The City of Los Angeles initiated the Administrative Citation Enforcement (ACE) Program in 2016 as an additional tool to enforce low-level violations of the Los Angeles Municipal Code. Since its adoption, many departments, including the Los Angeles Police Department, Los Angeles Fire Department, Department of Animal Services, BSS, and Bureau of Sanitation have used the program to enforce the City's codes effectively and improve the quality of life throughout the City.

The City should take proactive steps to change the behavior of property owners who, year after year, refuse to comply with City orders to abate a public nuisance a misdemeanor violation of LAMC 58.02 - and hold onto vacant, poorly maintained properties, thereby increasing blight in our communities during a time when we must optimize the City's most precious resource - land.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Attorney, with the assistance of the Bureau of Street Services, be REQUESTED to prepare and present an ordinance authorizing violations of LAMC 58.02 to be enforced through the City's Administrative Citation Enforcement (ACE) Program, with each separate parcel of vacant land with a distinct Assessor Parcel Number subject to a separate fine, even when a property owner owns multiple parcels of land in a single area, and require 50% of fine revenue to be deposited into the Real Property Trust Fund of the Council District in which the fine originated.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Bureau of Street Services be directed to report on the process by which the Bureau will issue fines, in the Bureau's response to Council File 20-0098.

PRESENTED BY:



JOE BUSCAINO

Councilmember, 15th District

SECONDED BY:

