



October 14, 2014

Council File 14-0163-S4

Honorable City Council
c/o Office of the City Clerk
Los Angeles City Hall
200 North Spring Street, Room 395
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Honorable Members,

The Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council requests that the following Community Impact Statement be added to Council File 14-0163-S4, regarding the creation of a “Citywide Sidewalk Repair Program.”

COMMUNITY IMPACT STATEMENT

The Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council (“DLANC”) supports a “Fix and Release” plan for the repair of our tree damaged sidewalks. Under this plan, the City would pay for the repair of the tree damaged sidewalks, after which the property owners would be responsible for the maintenance and repair of their sidewalks and any associated slip and fall liabilities. In addition, we respectfully request the City Council to consider the following in drafting the “Citywide Sidewalk Repair Program”:

- The City will issue bonds to finance the repair. There will be no new taxes.
- The City may develop alternative plans (50/50 program, loan fund, Assessment Districts) that rely on the voluntary participation by Property Owners.
- Property Owners and the City may retain independent contractors and managers.
- The City will assess the status of our sidewalks and prioritize the necessary repairs.
- The City will establish a well-funded, independent Oversight Committee to ensure transparency throughout the process.

Further, in response to the Bureau of Street Services’ sidewalk survey questionnaire (“Neighborhood Council Questionnaire”),¹ the Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council submits the following responses:

¹ Available at <http://empowerla.org/sidewalk-repair-priorities-and-funding-options/>

1) PRIORITY OF THE THREE MOST IMPORTANT PLACES TO HAVE GOOD SIDEWALKS IN THE DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL AREA:

	Most Important	2nd Most Important	3rd Most Important
The existing sidewalks are acceptable in their current condition	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
On existing sidewalks damaged by trees	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
On residential streets	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
On streets near schools	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
On streets near government facilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
On main streets or arterial streets	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
On commercial/business district streets	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
On Streets with public transportation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
All streets in the City	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

2) WHAT IS YOUR PREFERRED WAY TO FUND A SIDEWALK REPAIR PROGRAM (SELECT ONE)?

- Citywide Bond** - The City incurs debt to pay for the sidewalk repairs, bond financing charges and bond oversight costs. The repayments will limit the City's ability to fund other programs and services for the duration of the loan.
- Assessment District** - Sidewalk repair costs are prorated to all property owners with the option to spread the payments over a number of years.
- Point of Service** - Each time utility services are requested, any necessary sidewalk repairs must be completed by the property owner.
- Point of Permit** - Each time a permit is obtained over a designated amount, any necessary sidewalk repairs must be completed by the property owner.
- Point of Sale** - Each time a house or property is sold, any necessary sidewalk repairs must be made or guaranteed prior to the close of escrow.
- City's Existing Revenue** - The City's General Fund should be Primary (or only) source for funding sidewalk repairs.

This Community Impact Statement is based on the action taken at the regularly scheduled Board of Directors meeting on October 14, 2014, when the Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council adopted the following motion by a vote of ___ yes, ___ no, ___ abstaining and directed that a Community Impact Statement be filed reflecting its position.

Motion: “The Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council supports a “fix and release” plan for the repair of our tree damaged sidewalks.”

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

Patricia Berman
DLANC President

Eric R. Garcia
DLANC Community Impact Committee Chair