

August 27, 2014

Honorable Paul Krekorian
Councilmember District 2
200 N. Spring Street, Room 435
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Proposed Citywide Sidewalk Repair Program

After serious discussion of the proposed Citywide Sidewalk Repair Program, the Neighborhood Council of Westchester-Playa (“NCWP”) finds the proposed program commendable and that there are merits to the concept.

However, we do maintain reservations.

The NCWP believes that the proposed Citywide Sidewalk Repair Program should be amended to include a new policy of holding those undertaking sidewalk repair projects harmless if those projects are permitted, inspected, and accepted by the City. Permits for these projects should remain “no cost.” Such a modification, we believe, would incentivize property owners to seek needed repair work while improving the appearances of our neighborhoods.

Sincerely,

Cyndi Hench
President
Neighborhood Council of Westchester-Playa

14-0163-54

BUDGET & FINANCE
PUBLIC WORKS & GANG REDUCTION


MOTION


In the City's budget for Fiscal Year 2013-14, \$10 million was appropriated for sidewalk repairs. On May 6, 2014, the City Council authorized a sidewalk repair plan that began spending those appropriated funds on repairs to sidewalks adjacent to public facilities. To date, about \$3 million of those funds have been spent and sidewalks adjacent to parks, libraries, municipal buildings, civic centers and other community facilities that had not seen sidewalk repairs for many years are being improved.

Upon the recommendation of the Budget and Finance Committee, all of the sidewalk repair funds that were not yet expended by the end of Fiscal Year 2013-14 will be re-appropriated exclusively for sidewalk repair in Fiscal Year 2014-15. Thus, in order to continue that work with a regular program for improvements to the public's property, and to reduce liability associated with infrastructure in disrepair, the Council should consider a comprehensive City Sidewalk Repair Program that improves public access to public facilities.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Administrative Officer, in concert with the Bureau of Engineering and the Risk Management Unit of the City Attorney's office, report with recommendations for a city sidewalk repair program that will identify, prioritize and budget for the repair of damaged city-owned sidewalks throughout all Los Angeles neighborhoods, with particular focus on those sidewalks that hold the highest potential for liability and present the most significant challenges to mobility and public access to the public's facilities.

Presented by:


PAUL KREKORIAN
Councilmember, 2nd District


HERB J. WESSON, Jr.
Councilmember, 10th District

Seconded by:



ORIGINAL



14-0163-53

MOTION

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PUBLIC WORKS & GANG REDUCED

I MOVE that the Council INSTRUCT the City Administrative Officer to establish a Sidewalk Repair Trust Fund in which funds for future sidewalk repairs should be placed.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Council INSTRUCT the City Administrative Officer, the Chief Legislative Analyst and the Bureau of Street Services to report on reconstituting a "50/50" or similar cost sharing program for residential sidewalk repairs, with the following elements:

- Funds in the 50/50 program would be used exclusively on privately-owned residential properties; and
- An application system should be established that ensures equity across communities and encourages the widest degree of participation during a fixed period of years in which the program will be maintained; and
- The program should create an incentive for more complete pathways by prioritizing or further subsidizing repairs to be made to entire blocks or significant lengths of contiguous sidewalk.

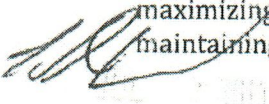
I FURTHER MOVE that the Council INSTRUCT the City Administrative Officer and the Chief Legislative Analyst report on recommendations for developing a low- or no-interest revolving loan program from which property owners could borrow to make necessary sidewalk repairs and repay the city for the cost of said repairs over a fixed term, with repayment to be secured by a lien against the property for the unpaid balance.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Council INSTRUCT the City Administrative Officer and the Chief Legislative Analyst to report on the steps required to establish Assessment Districts for sidewalk repairs and recommendations for a simplified process for creating such a district if a neighborhood so desires it.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Council INSTRUCT the Chief Legislative Analyst and the Bureau of Street Services to report with recommendations for an enforcement plan to inspect commercial properties, and properties within the City of Los Angeles belonging to other governmental agencies, and issue repair orders for sidewalks that do not conform to standards of good repair, providing adequate time for the commercial or governmental property owner to bring their sidewalks into compliance, before issuing fines against those property owners who fail to comply (with such fines to be collected and placed in the Sidewalk Repair Trust Fund), and providing that failure to comply could result in the City completing the repairs and securing repayment for all costs from the commercial or governmental property owner.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Council INSTRUCT the City Administrative Officer, the Chief Legislative Analyst, the Bureaus of Engineering and Street Services, and the City Attorney to coordinate on developing a complaint-driven mapping and prioritization system to identify and coordinate repairs to sidewalks that pose the greatest challenges to mobility for pedestrians.

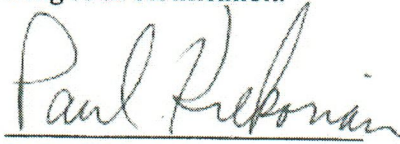
I FURTHER MOVE that the Council INSTRUCT the Bureau of Engineering to develop and maintain design and construction standards for sidewalks that serve the City's objectives of maximizing mobility, increasing groundwater recharge and stormwater infiltration, maintaining aesthetic compatibility with distinctive neighborhood styles and historic



designs, and provide a process for innovation and pilot programs utilizing new materials and construction techniques as they are developed.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Council INSTRUCT the City Administrative Officer, the Chief Legislative Analyst and the Bureau of Street services to report with recommendations for a system to certify sidewalks for compliance with contemporary standards of good repair, and for notifying property owners of their responsibility of maintaining such a state of good repair following such certification.

Presented by:



PAUL KREKORIAN
Councilmember, 2nd District



HERB J. WESSON, Jr.
Councilmember, 10th District

Seconded by:



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