



**James Johnson**  
**City of Long Beach**  
**Councilmember, Seventh District**

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**Date:** May 7, 2013

**To:** Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

**From:** Councilmember James Johnson, Seventh District *JJ*  
Councilmember Al Austin, Eighth District *al*  
Councilmember Suja Lowenthal, Second District *SL*  
Councilmember Dee Andrews, Sixth District *DA*

**Subject:** Joint Consideration of the City's Approach To Sidewalks and Trees

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

Refer consideration of the City's urban forest plan and the City's sidewalk plan to the City Council's Infrastructure Committee.

**DISCUSSION**

Both a thriving urban forest and well-maintained sidewalks are important to neighborhood quality of life. Properly placed and maintained trees help improve air quality, provide shade, and beautify our neighborhoods. However, planting the wrong tree in the wrong place can have negative consequences, including damage to City sidewalks as well as to both private and public sewer lines. Thus, the Public Works Director has recommended that we consider the interrelated nature of our citywide urban forest and our sidewalks. Therefore, we request that the Infrastructure Committee consider a citywide approach and plan for both our sidewalks and our urban forest.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

Coordinating our planning for sidewalks and our urban forest could lead to significant cost savings over the long term while minimizing damage to both public and private property, as fewer sidewalks need to be replaced from improperly placed trees or from inappropriate tree species.