

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
INTERDEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

Date: March 31, 2005

To: Councilmember Greig Smith, Chairperson
Public Works Committee

Councilmember Tony Cardenas
Sixth Council District

c/o Sharon Gin, Office of the City Clerk

From: Gary Lee Moore, City Engineer
Bureau of Engineering



SUBJECT: STATUS REPORT FOR COUNCIL FILE 04-0999, NO FEE PERMITS TO HOMEOWNERS / INSTALL, RECONSTRUCT OR REPAIR SIDEWALKS

TRANSMITTALS

1. Copy of the original Council Motion (Cardenas - Smith).
2. Copy of the adopted Council report (Council File No. 04-0999).
3. Copy of the adopted Board of Public Works Report dated August 18, 2004.

BACKGROUND

On May 19, 2004, Council referred Motion (Cardenas - Smith) relative to issuing "no fee" permits for homeowners wishing to install, repair, or reconstruct sidewalks in front of their homes, to the Public Works Committee for consideration. At its regular meeting held July 9, 2004, the Public Works Committee heard discussion of this matter. The Committee determined to amend the proposed recommendation of the Motion (Cardenas - Smith) to exclude new sidewalk construction from the proposed "no fee" pilot program. The Committee recommended that the Council request the Board of Public Works establish a six-month pilot program to waive A-Permit fees for homeowners wishing to repair the sidewalks in front of their residences. The Committee further recommended that the Council request the Board of Public Works provide a status report to the Council including number of permits waived, dollar amount of permits, number of miles of repaired sidewalk and other relevant data.

At the August 4, 2004 Council meeting, Council adopted the Public Works Committee recommendations. The Board of Public Works at its August 18, 2004 meeting requested that the Bureau of Engineering establish a six-month pilot program to waive A-Permit fees for single family homeowners repairing their sidewalks and to report back to City Council after the six months of data has been gathered. This report is in response to these requests.

STATUS OF PILOT PROGRAM

The Bureau of Engineering established the six-month pilot program for A-Permit fee Waivers for Homeowners Repairing Sidewalks between September 15, 2004 and March 15, 2005. The fee waivers were provided to single family residences, for sidewalk repair or reconstruction only. Following is the summary of the data gathered for the six-month pilot program.

**SUMMARY OF FEES WAIVED FOR SINGLE FAMILY
HOMEOWNERS REPAIRING THEIR SIDEWALKS**

| | |
|---|--------------------------|
| Total number of permits waived..... | 159 permits ¹ |
| Total fees waived | \$36,327 |
| Inspection fees waived | \$8,817 |
| Basic permit fees waived | \$27,510 |
| Total miles repaired or reconstructed during the six-month period. This number is for the single sidewalk only. | Approximately 1 mile |
| <p>¹ Out of the 159 permits, 131 permits were for sidewalk repairs only and the basic permit and inspection fees were waived. Twenty-eight permits involved additional work requiring a basic permit fee charge; however, the City waived the inspection fees for the sidewalk repairs for these applicants.</p> | |

If you require additional information, please contact Ofelia Rubio at (213) 978-2074 or Clark Robins at (213) 847-8769.

GLM/OR
PW Committee Report - 040805

Attachments

cc: John Lee, CD 12
Francisco Martinez, CD 6
Roslyn Carter-Phillips, CLA
Clark Robins, Deputy City Engineer, Bureau of Engineer
Ofelia Rubio, Bureau of Engineering

MAY 19 2004

MOTION

The repair, reconstruction and construction of sidewalks is a City-wide problem which we cannot significantly address due to limited resources.

The current City budget as well as the one just approved for FY 04-05 do not provide any funding for new sidewalk construction; and they only provide for 52 miles of sidewalk repair City-wide.

There are instances where property owners are willing to undertake the cost of repairing the sidewalks in front of their homes. In these instances the City should recognize the benefit of this effort and encourage the initiative by at least waiving the permit fees required for such sidewalk repair, reconstruction and new sidewalk construction in front of existing residences.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Board of Public Works be requested to issue "no fee" permits for homeowners wishing to install, reconstruct or repair sidewalks in front of their own homes.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Board of Public Works be requested to provide a six month status report to Council on the above described initiative including the miles of sidewalks affected, the number and dollar amount of permits waived and any other relevant information.

PRESENTED BY: Tony Cardenas
TONY CARDENAS
Councilman, 6th District

SECONDED BY: [Signature]

MAY 19 2004

AP

ak

21

8/4

TO THE COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF LOS ANGELES

Your

PUBLIC WORKS

Committee

reports as follows:

Public Comments: Yes No
XXX —

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT relative to issuing "no fee" permits to property owners wishing to repair or reconstruct sidewalks in front of their homes.

Recommendation for Council action, as initiated by Motion (Cardenas - Smith):

REQUEST the Board of Public Works to:

- a. Establish a six-month pilot program whereby "no fee" permits will be issued to property owners wishing to repair or reconstruct sidewalks in front of their homes.
- b. Provide a status report to Council at the conclusion of the above described pilot program including the miles of sidewalks affected, the number and dollar amount of permits waived, and any other relevant information.

Fiscal Impact Statement: Neither the City Administrative Officer nor the Chief Legislative Analyst has completed a financial analysis of this report.

SUMMARY


On May 19, 2004, Council referred Motion (Cardenas - Smith), relative to issuing "no fee" permits for homeowners wishing to install, repair, or reconstruct sidewalks in front of their homes, to the Public Works Committee for consideration. The subject Motion reports that the construction, repair, and reconstruction of sidewalks is a City-wide problem which cannot be significantly addressed due to limited resources. The current City budget, as well as that for Fiscal Year 2004-2005, provides no funding for new sidewalk construction and only provides for 52 miles of sidewalk repair City-wide.

The Motion further reports that there are instances where property owners are willing to undertake the cost of repairing the sidewalks in front of their homes. In these instances, the City should recognize the benefit of this effort and encourage the initiative by waiving the permit fees required for sidewalk repair, reconstruction, and construction in front of existing residences.

At its regular meeting held July 9, 2004, the Public Works Committee discussed this matter with City staff. At that time, the Committee determined to amend the proposed recommendation of Motion (Cardenas - Smith) to exclude new sidewalk construction from the proposed "no fee" pilot program. The Committee recommended that Council request the Board of Public Works to establish a six-month pilot program whereby "no fee" permits will be issued to property owners wishing to repair or reconstruct sidewalks in front of their homes. The Committee further recommended that Council request the Board of Public Works to provide a status report at the conclusion of the pilot program including the miles of sidewalks affected, the number and dollar amount of permits waived, and any other relevant information.

This matter is now submitted to Council for its consideration.

Respectfully submitted,
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE



| <u>MEMBER</u> | <u>VOTE</u> |
|---------------|-------------|
| SMITH: | YES |
| LABONGE: | YES |
| PERRY: | ABSENT |
| AA | |
| 07/22/04 | |
| #040999 | |

Rept
ADOPTED
AUG 04 2004

LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL

Department of Public Works

Bureau of Engineering
Report No. 1

August 18, 2004
CD Nos. All

AUG 18 2004


Secretary

166135

A-PERMIT FEE WAIVERS FOR HOMEOWNERS REPAIRING SIDEWALKS (COUNCIL FILE NO. 04-0999)

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Direct the Bureau of Engineering to establish a pilot program to waive A-Permit fees for single family homeowners repairing sidewalks in front of their residences.
2. Instruct the Bureau of Engineering to track the number and dollar amount of permits waived, the number of miles of sidewalks repaired associated with these permits and report back to the City Council after six months of data have been gathered.

TRANSMITTALS

1. Copy of the original Council Motion.
2. Copy of the adopted Council report (Council File No. 04-0999).

DISCUSSION

Background

On July 9, 2004 the Public Works Committee heard discussion of this matter. The Committee recommended that the Council request that the Board of Public Works develop a pilot program to waive A-Permit fees for homeowners wishing to repair the sidewalks in front of their residences. The fee waivers would be limited to single family residences, for sidewalk repair or reconstruction only. In addition, the Committee recommended that the Council request the Board of Public Works provide a status report to the Council including number of permits, dollar amount of permits, number of miles of repaired sidewalk and other relevant data. On August 4, 2004 the Council adopted the Public Works Committee Report (Transmittal No. 2).

Conclusion

In view of these instructions from Council, we recommend that the Board instruct the Bureau of Engineering to begin the pilot program on September 15, 2004, and report back to Council after March 15, 2005.

STATUS OF FINANCING

Financing is not required. The Bureau of Engineering estimates the loss of fees to be approximately \$48,000 in basic fees and \$26,000 in inspection fees.

Report No. 1

Page 2

(CWR)

Report reviewed by:

Respectfully submitted,

Council Liaison



Report prepared by:

Gary Lee Moore, P.E.
City Engineer

Constituent Services
and Permit Program

Clark W. Robins
Deputy City Engineer
Phone No. (213) 847-8769

CWR/MW/08-2004-0183.EXE.gva

Questions regarding this report
may be referred to:

Writer: Michael Walters
Phone No. (213) 978-2074
Fax No. (213) 978-0174