

## COUNCIL FILE Council File: 19-0600

**Dear Los Angeles City Council Members,**

We share your vision to make the City of Los Angeles an equitable, healthy, and beautiful green City. However, the chance to enact meaningful measures to achieve these goals, and avoid the worst of climate change is vanishing.

**We urge you to provide strong leadership now and take steps to significantly strengthen Los Angeles's Urban Forest and protect us from the effects of climate change.**

The Urban Forest is a critical resource in reducing the urban heat island effect, improving public health, and achieving climate goals. This critical asset cannot take care of itself; it needs expert management and continued investment. But limited data on the structure and condition of our urban forest has hampered management. Since the State of the Street Trees report in 2015, a tree inventory has been recommended, requested and postponed until further study was completed. That study, the Dudek Report: *Developing an Urban Forest Management Plan for the City of Los Angeles*. **Its priority recommendation is a comprehensive professional tree inventory.**

We are enthusiastic fans of electric technology and renewable energy, but **leading climate scientists have concluded that we must find our way to “negative emissions”, extracting more carbon dioxide from the air than we contribute to it. Using the power of green plants is required. Hence, the Urban Forest must be incorporated into the city's climate action plans and goals.** Mature trees and native species, in particular, support healthy city functions, and their conservation in urban systems is paramount to the management and maintenance of the Urban Forest.

Given the importance of improving the quality of life for city residents, critical societal issues, including climate change and heat reduction, Los Angeles's Urban Forest must be immediately and more broadly incorporated into decision making.

**The time to invest in the urban forest is now by implementing the City's tree inventory and updating regulations as follows:**

- 1. Fund a complete ground-based Tree Inventory for all public trees city-wide** by a third party certified arborist entity not associated with the LA City Urban Forestry Division for a fair and unbiased condition evaluation and timely completion to ensure data is useful.

2. **Fund the development of an urban forestry management system.** This detailed tree inventory should be entered into a public database that informs a care and management plan.
3. **Require a tree inventory, by a qualified arborist, be delivered to and cleared by UFD prior to the issuance of any Building or Land Use Permit for all development projects.** These reports must be made available to council offices and Neighborhood Councils upon request.
4. **Include specific acknowledgement of climate goals in any new tree ordinance, management plans or development projects, and factor in carbon sequestration and other benefits when putting a dollar value on trees.**

We ask you to meaningfully consider the sensible requests posed in this letter on behalf of the committee and the many concerned Angelenos we represent.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diana Zogran  
Environmental Health Committee Chair  
Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance  
818.761.1688



May 1, 2019

Honorable Paul Krekorian, Chair  
Budget and Finance Committee  
City of Los Angeles  
200 N. Spring Street, Room 435  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: DTLA Foot Patrol Request

Dear Chairman Krekorian and Committee Members,

The LA Fashion District is a neighborhood that incorporates 110 blocks in the middle of downtown Los Angeles, which includes the largest Flower Markets in the country, 2000+ designer showrooms, two of the only active historic Broadway theatres (the Ace and Orpheum), and the Santee Alley which draws some of the highest pedestrian counts in the city. The activity in the district is 24/7. Yet, increasingly, we are experiencing calls for service that include random violent acts and unwanted sexual encounters.

Downtown LA residential population continues to grow and that brings more businesses and activity on our streets. We believe the City is behind in providing various city amenities correlating to that growth. We especially urge you to support resources and additional staff for LAPD foot patrols in Downtown Los Angeles. Additionally, we request that the additional foot patrols become a permanent part of the budget and not just to be included in overtime budgets.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rena Leddy".

Rena Leddy  
Executive Director