

MOTION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & JOBS

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) establishes critical civil rights protections that ensure people with disabilities have equal access to businesses, services, and public spaces. While the City of Los Angeles is committed to advancing accessibility in every neighborhood, many commercial corridors are characterized by older buildings owned by longtime, small “mom-and-pop” property owners. These legacy buildings were often designed and constructed decades before modern accessibility standards were enacted and can require significant structural upgrades to achieve compliance.

Improvements such as accessible entrances, pathways of travel, parking facilities, and restroom accommodations are essential to ensuring equal access for all Angelenos. In many cases, responsibility for implementing these upgrades falls on small business owners and longtime property owners. While these investments are necessary, the cost of compliance can be substantial and, for many neighborhood-serving businesses, difficult to absorb without technical guidance or financial assistance.

As a result, many small businesses and longtime property owners are left to navigate complex regulations and costly improvements with limited support. When accessibility barriers remain unaddressed, businesses may face legal disputes and additional financial burdens that threaten the viability of longstanding community-serving establishments. These challenges are particularly acute in neighborhoods already facing economic pressures and displacement, where the loss of local businesses can have ripple effects throughout the community.

Creating a more accessible city must be paired with meaningful support for the small businesses and longtime property owners responsible for making these improvements. To advance accessibility and strengthen neighborhood commercial corridors, the City must better understand the barriers businesses face and identify attainable pathways to compliance. Through data collection, education and outreach, technical assistance, and the exploration of financial support programs, Los Angeles can take a proactive approach that expands access, promotes compliance, and supports the small businesses that are vital to the City’s economy and cultural identity.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council instruct the Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA), with assistance from the Department of Disability, to report on the estimated number of businesses in the City of Los Angeles that are not Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)-compliant and common reasons for lack of compliance with ADA standards for small business property owners. This report should highlight the most common reasons for ADA lawsuits for small businesses and the potential costs and requirements for making required improvements to meet ADA compliance. Additionally, the report should delineate between standards that are most commonly the responsibility of the property owner from the ones of the business operator.

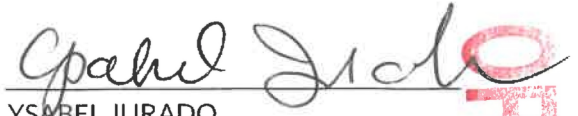
I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council instruct the CLA, with the assistance of the Department of Disability and the Mayor’s Office of Business and Economic Development, to report on the feasibility of developing an outreach and education plan that includes workshops, resources for Council Offices to distribute to small businesses, advisement on prospective educational partnerships and proactive outreach to small businesses informing them of their responsibilities to achieve ADA compliance and any available resources.

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council instruct the CLA, with the assistance of the Community Investment Department, the Department of Disability, the Mayor’s Office of Business and Economic Development, and other relevant departments, to report on the feasibility of administering a micro-grant program that supports small businesses in meeting ADA requirements.

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I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council requests the City Attorney to report on the total amount of funds the City has paid in ADA related settlements involving sidewalks in or adjacent to non-residential areas since implementation of the Willits settlement.

PRESENTED BY



YSABEL JURADO
Councilmember, 14th District

SECONDED BY



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