

NEWS



Councilmember **Tom LaBonge** 4th District

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MEDIA ADVISORY

COUNCILMEMBER LABONGE OFFERS SOLUTION TO CURB CITY'S UNSIGHTLY, UNSANITARY PILES OF FURNITURE, APPLIANCES AND OTHER BULKY ITEM STREET TRASH

Motion Seeks Modest Annual Collection Fee From Large Apartment Owners to Support City Collection Service That Removes Piles of Debris From Public Streets and Sidewalks

LOS ANGELES (April 30, 2004) – Councilmember Tom LaBonge seeks a new ordinance to allow the City to collect a modest monthly fee from large apartment owners to cover the City's cost to pick up and haul away piles of discarded furniture, appliances and other bulky items left on public streets and sidewalks.

LaBonge's motion, to be introduced at City Council on Tuesday, May 4, will ask for a \$1 to 2-a-month "bulky item service fee" on all apartment buildings 5 units or larger that will be added to owners' bi-monthly municipal bill. The ordinance would allow property owners to pass 50% of this fee along to their tenants.

Currently, apartment building owners are expected to contract with private haulers to remove all trash and other debris around their buildings, when in reality, the City, through its Bureau of Sanitation and Street Services, bears much if not most of this burden. In the last fiscal year, the City spent nearly \$8 million to pick up and remove illegally-dumped bulky items.

"This modest fee will go along way to help fund what has become an essential City service to fight neighborhood blight," said Councilmember LaBonge. "The amount of tonnage the City collects increases by the day and it has come to the point where we must ask that this fiscal burden be shared by property owners and their tenants."

WHAT: Bulky Item Clean Up Fee Proposal

WHEN: Monday, May 3, 2004, 10 a.m.

WHERE: 1834 N. Alexandria Ave., East Hollywood, Los Angeles

WHO: Councilmember Tom LaBonge
Representatives from Board and Department of Public Works
Apartment Owner Associations
Tenant Advocates
Neighborhood Council and Other Community Leaders