

PRESS RELEASE

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Greig Smith Council District 12



LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCILMAN GREIG SMITH

HIRE YOUR OWN CITY WORK CREW FOR A DAY

Los Angeles – Sidewalk repair is among the City services most frequently requested by residents and community groups, and one of the services that I fight hard to bring to Northwest Valley residents.

The City's 50/50 Sidewalk Program, a new program that allows residents and community groups to get specific sidewalk repairs done more quickly, is so popular that there is a waiting list to use it. That's proof that City residents are willing to contribute some of the costs to have specific improvements and beautifications of public spaces more quickly.

That is why I want to remind residents and groups that they can still use their own funds to hire their own work crew for a day with the Personal City Services and Repairs Program. The program, which I introduced and the Council approved in April 2005, was inspired by the Neighborhood Councils' expressed desire to use their \$50,000 annual budgets to contribute to the upkeep of their communities.

It allows community residents, or any group such as a Business Improvement District or Neighborhood Council, to use their own funds to pay for overtime costs for City crews to perform a wide variety of services, including: tree trimming and weed clearing, filling potholes, curb, gutter and sidewalk repairs, upgrading parks and purchasing books for a local library branch.

The costs range depending on the type and length of job, but start from as little as \$385 for 4 hours of overtime for small asphalt repairs, \$425 for 4 hours of clean up of illegally dumped trash or bulky items, and \$730 for 4 hours of tree trimming. Library books can be purchased for \$25 per book on average for a minimum of \$1,000. Multi-phased construction jobs, such as sidewalk repair are estimated case-by-case and can be obtained from the Bureau of Street Services.

I'm a big fan of this program because it gives community groups and residents the tools to participate in the improvement and beautification of their own neighborhoods, which raises the quality of life for all. I believe in making streets and sidewalks safe and attractive as well as making government more responsive, and government/community partnerships like this achieve both of those goals.

Please feel free to contact John Bwarie, my Deputy District Director, at (818) 701-5221, for a complete listing of available City services and their costs, and how to apply, or call Eric Taguchi at the Bureau of Street services at (213) 485-3427.

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