

**From:** [Kevan Puckett](#)  
**To:** [Eduardo Sarmiento](#)  
**Cc:** [Wade Jones](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Proposal to Require Property Owners to Repair the Sidewalk Area Abutting their Real Property.  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 27, 2021 2:29:18 PM

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Dear Mr. Sarmiento,

Please add our letter to the chorus of complaints logged against the proposal to require property owners to repair the sidewalk area abutting their real property. This proposal should be rejected in its entirety. Where to begin in expressing my outrage? I'll start with the egregious lack of transparency. The city failed to properly notify property owners of this draconian proposal and I cannot help but to think that an attempt has been made to slip this ordinance in under the noses of All property owners in this city. I cannot imagine that any homeowner or business owner in this city would think this proposed ordinance is anywhere close to being reasonable and if a notice had been mailed out to every property owner, I believe your office would have heard from all of them.

This proposed ordinance has the potential to do serious harm to the financial stability of homeowners, renters and businesses alike. The immediate consequence of the ordinance will be to increase dramatically the cost of liability insurance. and then the next hit to property owners will be the high cost of various concrete repairs. All of this to cover maintenance costs on city owned land not belonging to the property owner. Some property owners will face even higher costs, due to higher pedestrian and vehicular traffic on certain streets and thus, higher wear and tear. Owners of rental properties will pass costs on to renters and other businesses will pass costs on to customers.

As for businesses potentially coming to our city, they may think twice when they discover they will be held liable for the bad sidewalks in this town. Driving businesses and business tax away because of an ordinance requiring said businesses to directly pay for city infrastructure repair sounds like bad city business to me!

Lastly, the provision in the proposed ordinance to charge people with a misdemeanor offense for failure to complete repairs on city infrastructure, even when the property owner may not have the means to do so, is outrageous. We have been homeowners and have faithfully paid property taxes in Hermosa Beach for 24 years. We and many other property owners would like to know why our property taxes are not already being used to pay for repairs on our sidewalks and streets. Demanding that property owners directly pay for sidewalk, parkway and curb repair, in our view rises to the level of scandal that we have not seen since the oil company fiasco of years past.

The city Council should vote to reject this proposal.

Thank you.

Kevan and Marylou Puckett