

**From:** [Laura](#)  
**To:** [Eduardo Sarmiento](#)  
**Subject:** HB Council Meeting Ecomment on Sidewalk Repair  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 27, 2021 2:58:11 PM

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Dear Mayor, Council Members, and Staff – I oppose the “Ordinance to require property owners to repair the sidewalk area abutting their real property” for several reasons. As I understand, the city is trying to align itself with the state streets and highway code but the process by which it is doing so does not allow for a full understanding of this measure by our community as evidenced by the over 30 email comments submitted.

1) VAGUE: The ordinance in itself is vague. Does it apply to commercial and residential property owners equally? From my understanding there have been CIP projects on PCH in the past where the sidewalks were repaired. Does that mean property on PCH is excluded from this measure or was this a special section that will not be included in this ordinance?

2) LACK OF COMMUNICATION: As previous commenters have mentioned, there has been a lack of communication and notification to property owners on this issue. If it is indeed necessary to align our city with the states street and highway code, I recommend holding community workshops to address the myriad concerns of property owners so more discussion and input is provided.

3) FINANCIAL HARDSHIP: As of June 15<sup>th</sup> we are just re-opening our city again, so to adopt this ordinance while we are still under a residential and commercial eviction moratorium will not only place an undue hardship on property owners who are not collecting full rent is incredibly unnecessary and excessively harsh.

4) CONSTRUCTION SUPPLIES: As mentioned by other property owners, contractors and supplies are extremely limited. In fact, when I contacted by contractor he told me he is scheduled 4 months out. While our city and state are under extreme shortages for supplies the timing of this ordinance is ill advised.

5) CITY RESOURCES: As I understand, we have (4) four weeks from notice to repair our sidewalks or the city can perform the work and bill us accordingly. Currently, our city hall has not even fully restored our staffing resources. When I inquired about obtaining a permit for repairing a roof, I was told it could take 4-6 weeks. I can only imagine the incredible backlog this will further create in our city.

Lastly, and probably most concerning, is this ordinance can declare our non-compliance as a misdemeanor, which is a criminal offense. I can not tell how incredibly outrageous that would be. Hopefully, our council will vote NO or at the very least table this issue until more information is provided to our community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Laura Pena