

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Mindy Rothstein Mann

**Date Submitted:** 08/23/2023 12:59 PM

**Council File No:** 23-0801

**Comments for Public Posting:** I wholeheartedly support this motion. We need to change the way we value our existing trees in Los Angeles. There are plans to increase our tree canopy by planting new trees, but every year our tree canopy decreases due to the loss of our existing tree canopy. When there is choice between adding more square footage or keeping a tree, the tree is always the loser. When someone believes a tree is blocking their storefront or believes that a tree is a menace, the tree is always the loser. We need to consider trees part of our city's infrastructure and assign a monetary value to them based on their intrinsic value. Our trees contribute valuable canopy cover which cools our streets and purifies our air. In addition, they help collect stormwater and provide housing to millions of species that protect us from disease. The fines for illegally removing a street tree, therefore, should be based on the intrinsic value of the mature tree that was lost, and not on the cost to plant a young sapling in its place. Most important of all, I would ask that you move swiftly in passing this motion and set a firm deadline on the report back. Our trees are disappearing daily at an alarming rate, and we cannot afford delays.