

**MOTION**      **PLANNING & LAND USE MANAGEMENT**

On August 12, 2020 the Council adopted a Motion (Blumenfield-Ryu-Krekorian, et al.), instructing the Planning Department, the Department of Building and Safety, and the Bureau of Street Services, to prepare a report and recommendations relative to ongoing tree and biodiversity planning, strategies and/or efforts to protect and grow the City’s urban canopy (CF 15-0499-S1).

The role and benefits of urban forests are widely known. From shade provision to cleaner air, ecological habitat, rainwater collection, extreme heat mitigation, energy efficiency, beautification, improved mental health, and more - trees are the foundational natural resource that provide our urban communities with endless environmental, public health and quality of life benefits.

The shortage of trees is illustrated by the **very low tree canopy coverage percentages in all 15 Council Districts**. As noted in the *Los Angeles Urban Forest Equity Streets Guidebook* prepared in April 2021 by CAPA Strategies, the following chart provides the tree canopy coverage distribution by each Council District, with very low percentages Citywide, as follows:

Council District	Tree Canopy Coverage Percentage
15	10.03%
9	11.71%
8	12.20%
10	15.46%
6	15.68%
14	15.80%
13	18.56%
1	20.36%
12	20.59%
2	24.99%
7	25.16%
3	25.61%
5	35.20%
11	36.43%
4	36.66%

Trees are not being effectively protected or prioritized in policy, development, or enforcement. Instead, neighborhoods in every Council District are systematically deprived of the very natural resources that are the path to a sustainable built environment and enduring community health. This proves especially true for low-income communities, which already face a vast array of environmental inequities including increased exposure to adverse environmental conditions and their resulting negative health outcomes.

**I THEREFORE MOVE** that the Council instruct the Planning Department, the Department of Building and Safety, the Bureau of Street Services, the City’s Community Forest Advisory Committee, and the Board of Public Works Forest Office, with the assistance of the City Attorney, to: **(1)** prepare a report with recommendations relative to ongoing tree and biodiversity planning, strategies and/or efforts to protect and grow the City’s urban canopy, as instructed by the Council on August 12, 2020 (CF 15-0499-S1); and **(2)** provide recommendations to require the placement of trees, and timing of any tree removals, at an earlier phase in the land use/environmental review, and permitting review process, and thereby maximize City efforts to grow tree canopy coverage; and **(3)** prepare and present an ordinance to effectuate these directives.

**PRESENTED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**MARQUEECE HARRIS DAWSON**  
**Councilmember, 8<sup>th</sup> District**

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**SECONDED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_