

CITY'S "SAFE SIDEWALKS LA" PROGRAM INCREASES REBATE CAP *Residential property owners can receive up to \$10,000 starting August 1, 2017*

LOS ANGELES (August 1, 2017) — Starting on August 1, 2017, the City of Los Angeles' "Safe Sidewalks LA" sidewalk repair program will increase the amount residential and commercial property owners can receive through the City's Rebate Program. The cap, originally \$2,000 for homeowners and \$4,000 for commercial property owners, has been raised to \$10,000 for everyone, an amount that the City hopes will encourage more Angelenos to participate in the program.

Property owners must apply with the City to participate in the program, then pay for their own repairs. Once certified by the City that the repairs are ADA-compliant, the property owner then receives the City's valuation offer amount, up to \$10,000."

"The Rebate Program is an important part of the City's commitment to make sidewalks accessible to all Angelenos," said Gary Lee Moore, City Engineer. "By creating a partnership with property owners the City is helping increase mobility throughout our city and make communities more livable for everyone."

Safe Sidewalks LA is the City's historic, 30-year, \$1.4 billion commitment to make all sidewalks in Los Angeles accessible to everyone. The Bureau of Engineering (Engineering) is the lead department for the program. More information can be found at www.sidewalks.lacity.org.

"The new cap should entice and empower more property owners to partner with the City, and the result will be more sidewalks repaired quicker, less liability for the City and property owners, and happier constituents," said Councilmember Bob Blumenfield, new chair of the Public Works Committee.

The increase to the rebate cap was made after Engineering issued a survey to prospective applicants; feedback indicated that more property owners would proceed with repairs if the rebate was higher.

"Sidewalks are a vital element of the transportation system for all Angelenos and are crucial to the inter-connectivity of Los Angeles," said Councilman Joe Buscaino, Vice Chair of the Public Works Committee. "The increased rebate will provide residents and businesses with an immediate 'self-help' solution while the City continues the formidable challenge of identifying, prioritizing and repairing every broken sidewalk in the City over the next 30 years."

Since the program launched at the end of 2016, more than 1,100 applications have been submitted to the rebate program.

“Our investment in sidewalk repair is making communities better and safer throughout the Los Angeles,” said Councilmember Paul Krekorian, chair of the Budget and Finance Committee and co-author of the City’s sidewalk program. “We are currently fixing sidewalks at city parks, libraries and recreation centers, and also offering residents a way to make necessary repairs in their neighborhoods. I hope the increased rebate will encourage even more Angelenos to take advantage of this great opportunity.”

There are two other ways to report a sidewalk in need of repair, in addition to the Rebate Program.

*Access Request Program: People with a mobility disability who encounter physical barriers due to broken sidewalks, broken/missing curb ramps or other barriers in the public right of way can request a repair.

*The general public can report any sidewalk in need of repair by calling 3-1-1 or going to www.sidewalks.lacity.org.

Additional repair work is ongoing as well. The City is repairing sidewalks surrounding City facilities. For more information on these programs, go to www.sidewalks.lacity.org.

About the Bureau of Engineering

The Bureau of Engineering (Engineering) is the City's lead agency for the planning, design and construction management of public buildings, infrastructure and open space projects. Projects include municipal buildings, such as police and fire stations, convention centers, and recreational and cultural facilities, as well as bridges, street and transit projects, and stormwater and wastewater systems. Open space projects include the development of parks and the restoration of wetlands. Engineering also manages permitting for construction in the public right-of-way, as well as the City's state-of-the-art online mapping system, NavigateLA. Engineering's projects are nationally-recognized in the areas of environmental sustainability and design, and fully support the City's goals of creating a prosperous, livable and safe city for all residents and businesses. For more information, please visit <http://eng.lacity.org>.

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