

MAR 05 2008

MOTION

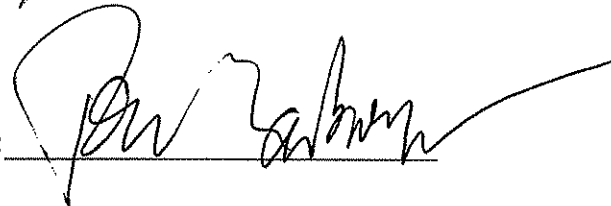
Murals are an integral part of cultural expression in the City of Los Angeles. Throughout the City of Los Angeles, murals have been created by artists from diverse artistic backgrounds and traditions. Often, murals illustrate important social and cultural issues in the community in which they are created.

In December 2007, a new mural was painted on private property in Boyle Heights. Shortly thereafter, the Department of Building and Safety cited the owner of the property stating that the mural was an unapproved sign and requested that the owner remove the mural. In order to comply with the City's request, the property owner painted over the mural without notifying the artists, the Department of Cultural affairs or the Council Office. As a result, the City of Los Angeles and community of Boyle Heights have lost a significant work of art.

Currently the City is working to restore its murals and protect them from destruction and vandalism. The City has recently undertaken efforts to ensure that processes are in place to protect and preserve murals. While the City is addressing protection of murals on public property, it is equally as important to extend efforts to address issues facing the murals on private property, especially considering that the majority of murals in our City are painted on private property.

**I THEREFORE MOVE**, that the City Council, instruct the Department of Building and Safety and the Planning Department to notify the Department of Cultural Affairs and the appropriate Council Office when a property owner has been cited for a violation and is being requested to remove a mural from private property.

PRESENTED BY:   
JOSE HUIZAR  
Councilmember, 14<sup>th</sup> District

SECONDED BY: 

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