



**PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION**  
CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

**Daniel Lurie, Mayor**

***Correspondence Log***

***May 16, 2025, through June 6, 2025***

<b>Date Received</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>Subject</b>
May 21, 2025	James Rosenfield	580 14 <sup>th</sup> Street – Increasingly NARROW sidewalk

**From:** [James Rosenfield](#)  
**To:** [DPW-Public Works Commission](#); [Short, Carla \(DPW\)](#); [DPW, \(DPW\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Lurie, Daniel \(MYR\)](#); [Schneider, Ian \(DPW\)](#); [Heredia, Christopher \(DPW\)](#); [Williams, Marianna \(DPW\)](#); [Buck, Chris \(DPW\)](#); [DPW, Urbanforestry \(DPW\)](#); [Nawbary, Susan \(DPW\)](#); [Landers, Edward \(DPW\)](#); [Mixon, DeShelia \(DPW\)](#); [White, Craig \(DPW\)](#); [Lee, Esther \(DPW\)](#)  
**Subject:** Re: 580 14th Street - Increasingly NARROW Sidewalk  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 21, 2025 8:05:50 PM

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**TO:**

**DPW COMMISSION**

**DPW DIRECTOR CARLA SHORT**

After months of repeated contacts to DPW with no response at all... including multiple 311 cases neglected and closed with no acknowledgement whatsoever... the unacceptable governance escalates.

- the effort required to get this dangerous sidewalk attended to, DESPITE DPW ALREADY KNOWING ABOUT IT FOR A LONG TIME
- at this late stage, this issue being delegated to a "management assistant"  
(<https://sfdhr.org/appointments/dpw-1844-esther-e-lee-esther-01-mar-2025>)
- profoundly careless communication from the Government Affairs Liaison Policy and Communications department

My last email to Esther Lee included **SIX (6) inquiries** (numbered so she couldn't miss them), and only **ONE (1) was answered**.

**SFDPW IS AN AWFULLY BIG ORGANIZATION TO ALLOW SUCH PROFOUND INCOMPETENCE**

(From the DPW website)

"**San Francisco Public Works** is one of the City's largest and most complex municipal operations, with a workforce of nearly 1,800 employees and an annual operating budget of \$453 million. The department also manages a capital project portfolio valued at over \$3 billion. As one of San Francisco's oldest City departments, it remains among the most forward-thinking."

**"FORWARD THINKING?" IT DOESN'T APPEAR THAT DPW IS THINKING AT ALL.**

On Wed, May 21, 2025 at 12:59 PM Lee, Esther (DPW) <[esther.e.lee@sfdpw.org](mailto:esther.e.lee@sfdpw.org)> wrote:

Hello James,

I have good news to share.

The stump grinding machine that was out for repairs is back in operation. The Public Works Bureau of Urban Forestry is on track to complete work at 580 14<sup>th</sup> street by the end of May with an estimated completion date of Friday May 30, 2025.

The tree stump will be removed and the sidewalks paved.

This process involves a stump grinding operation performed by Public Works Certified Arborists operating specialized stump grinding machinery. Cement work and concrete finish on the sidewalk will be performed by Public Works Bureau of Urban Forestry's Cement Masons and Cement Finishers.

Thank you,

Esther Lee



Esther Lee (she/her)

Government Affairs Liaison

Policy and Communications

San Francisco Public Works | City and County of San Francisco

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**From:** James Rosenfield <[james@strategyworks.com](mailto:james@strategyworks.com)>

**Sent:** Monday, May 19, 2025 7:54 PM

**To:** Lee, Esther (DPW) <[esther.e.lee@sfdpw.org](mailto:esther.e.lee@sfdpw.org)>; Lurie, Daniel (MYR) <[daniel.lurie@sfgov.org](mailto:daniel.lurie@sfgov.org)>

**Cc:** Schneider, Ian (DPW) <[ian.schneider@sfdpw.org](mailto:ian.schneider@sfdpw.org)>; Heredia, Christopher (DPW) <[christopher.heredia@sfdpw.org](mailto:christopher.heredia@sfdpw.org)>; Williams, Marianna (DPW) <[Marianna.Williams@sfdpw.org](mailto:Marianna.Williams@sfdpw.org)>; Buck, Chris (DPW) <[Chris.Buck@sfdpw.org](mailto:Chris.Buck@sfdpw.org)>; DPW, Urbanforestry (DPW) <[urbanforestry@sfdpw.org](mailto:urbanforestry@sfdpw.org)>; Nawbary, Susan (DPW) <[susan.nawbary@sfdpw.org](mailto:susan.nawbary@sfdpw.org)>; Landers, Edward (DPW) <[edward.landiers@sfdpw.org](mailto:edward.landiers@sfdpw.org)>; Mixon, DeShelia (DPW) <[DeShelia.Mixon@sfdpw.org](mailto:DeShelia.Mixon@sfdpw.org)>; White, Craig (DPW) <[craig.white@sfdpw.org](mailto:craig.white@sfdpw.org)>

**Subject:** Re: 580 14th Street - Increasingly NARROW Sidewalk

Thank you for the update Esther.

This location has been unsafe and out of code for a very long time, and now DPW/BUF has made it even more dangerous and barely passable.

I have already wasted a lot of time on numerous complaints to 311 and direct contacts with DPW. **ONE** message with specific project plans and timelines would do the trick; the same information should also be provided to the public.

1. HAS ANYBODY FROM DPW OR BUF SPENT SIGNIFICANT TIME THERE TO WITNESS THE BOTTLENECK AND DANGERS?
2. Who, exactly, oversees the DPW/BUF workers that created and left it in its current condition (<https://sfpublicworks.org/index.php/about/organization>)? How can they be contacted directly?
3. Perhaps whomever recently worsened the mess can **IMMEDIATELY** clean it up and maximize the sidewalk's usability?
4. What are the **specific** project plans? Will the plant area be removed, making that entire area sidewalk?
5. How long is "a surprisingly long time" for stump removal? That is insultingly vague. Don't they have a project management queue and some idea how long each job will take? Sounds like new leadership is very much in order!
6. Perhaps signage can be placed on the longstanding problem spot inform people who have been inconvenienced by this long-term negligence? This spot is a prime example of irresponsible governance; informing the public might be a small step in the right direction.

Awaiting results.

On Mon, May 19, 2025 at 4:50 PM Lee, Esther (DPW) <[esther.e.lee@sfdpw.org](mailto:esther.e.lee@sfdpw.org)> wrote:

Hi James,

I wanted to let you know that members of the Urban Forestry team just came back from the field and they were able to update me on the 580 14<sup>th</sup> Street property a few minutes ago. The tree stump has already been escalated to an urgent status for stump removal. That is confirmed. However, even on an urgent status, the queue for stump removal take a surprisingly long time.

Tomorrow, I will have more information.

Esther



Esther Lee (she/her)

Government Affairs Liaison

Policy and Communications

San Francisco Public Works | City and County of San Francisco

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**From:** Lee, Esther (DPW)

**Sent:** Monday, May 19, 2025 4:20 PM

**To:** [james@strategyworks.com](mailto:james@strategyworks.com)

**Subject:** FW: 580 14th Street - Increasingly NARROW Sidewalk

James,

Thank you for adding me to the email thread.

The BUF Division is going through a transition in leadership roles currently, as you have noticed.

I see the Public Works Service Order is active for the tree at 580 14<sup>th</sup> Street and that the Public Works Operations member noted the same hazards that you also identified.

I will follow up with the BUF team and ask for a status on the service request ask them to respond to you directly.

Esther Lee



Esther Lee (she/her)

Government Affairs Liaison

Policy and Communications

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**From:** James Rosenfield <

**Sent:** Sunday, May 18, 2025 7:17 PM

**To:** Lee, Esther (DPW) <[esther.e.lee@sfdpw.org](mailto:esther.e.lee@sfdpw.org)>

**Subject:** Fwd: 580 14th Street - Increasingly NARROW Sidewalk

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

----- Forwarded message -----

Subject: Fwd: **580 14th Street - Increasingly NARROW Sidewalk**

To: <[UrbanForestry@sfdpw.org](mailto:UrbanForestry@sfdpw.org)>, <[Susan.Nawbary@sfdpw.org](mailto:Susan.Nawbary@sfdpw.org)>, Williams, Marianna (DPW) <[marianna.williams@sfdpw.org](mailto:marianna.williams@sfdpw.org)>, <[edward.landiers@sfdpw.org](mailto:edward.landiers@sfdpw.org)>, <[deshelia.mixon@sfdpw.org](mailto:deshelia.mixon@sfdpw.org)>, <[craig.white@sfdpw.org](mailto:craig.white@sfdpw.org)>

Apparently several of the addressees for this **LONG NEGLECTED PROBLEM SIDEWALK AT 580 14TH STREET** have left their jobs or gone on vacation - I received many auto-responses that included the added email addresses.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **James Rosenfield** <[james@strategyworks.com](mailto:james@strategyworks.com)>

Date: Sun, May 18, 2025 at 6:58 PM

Subject: 580 14th Street - Increasingly NARROW Sidewalk

To: Crawford, Nicholas (DPW) <[nicholas.crawford@sfdpw.org](mailto:nicholas.crawford@sfdpw.org)>

Cc: Schneider, Ian (DPW) <[ian.schneider@sfdpw.org](mailto:ian.schneider@sfdpw.org)>, Heredia, Christopher (DPW)

<[christopher.heredia@sfdpw.org](mailto:christopher.heredia@sfdpw.org)>, Williams, Marianna (DPW)

<[Marianna.Williams@sfdpw.org](mailto:Marianna.Williams@sfdpw.org)>, Buck, Chris (DPW) <[Chris.Buck@sfdpw.org](mailto:Chris.Buck@sfdpw.org)>

Nicholas, et al -

Is this meant to be a step toward a legal and passable sidewalk? Apparently DPW (or somebody) has made it even more dangerous and impassible than it has been.

Regarding the photos below (taken 5/17/2025):

- it has been like this for several days, with no signage or other source of information about what is happening or when
- it is barely passable by one person, let alone multiple people, people with dogs, disabled people, bicycles that ride up 14th on this sidewalk, etc
- it is far from level, with varying degrees of danger
- (too small to see in photos) sharp cactus still sticks out into the narrow passage





On Wed, Apr 23, 2025 at 7:33 PM Crawford, Nicholas (DPW)

<[nicholas.crawford@sfdpw.org](mailto:nicholas.crawford@sfdpw.org)> wrote:

Hi Paula, thanks for sharing this.

Sometimes there are cases where things were misrouted, so I took a look in case that happened here. Fortunately I do see that the 311 case came to our queue on 4/11/25. I'm sorry, Mr. Rosenfeld, if it's showing as closed on your end. On our end, it was only received and not closed. It's assigned to our urban forestry inspection team for them to inspect as part of their rounds.

We do have quite a bit of history for this exact location, so I can share more. Back in 2024, I see the photos in the tree record that it was severely damaged from a passing vehicle and had to be removed on an emergency basis. The stump is still there, but an open work order for our arborists to grind the stump then another work order for our cement masons to repair the sidewalk. Due to the narrow path of travel, the tree basin will be paved over.

These are supposed to cascade where one triggers the other, but I see they are stuck in a draft status. I went in and manually edited them so they are now assigned to the proper supervisors to make the repairs. They've gotten email notifications already.

Thanks for flagging this. These tools are supposed to facilitate our communication and workflow, and we appreciate when a passerby or property owner notices that it's not advancing like it should so we can intervene. I don't have an ETA on the repair since we have only 1 crew that is addressing tree-related sidewalk damage citywide, but now that it's queued up properly, we will be working down the list for repair.



Nicholas Crawford

Assistant Superintendent - Trees

Bureau of Urban Forestry | San Francisco Public Works | City and County of San Francisco

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