

**Jomsky, Mark**

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**Subject:** FW: Review of City Advisory Boards, Commissions and Committees

Dear Mark,

Below are my comments regarding Agenda item Number 7 for tonight's Council meeting:

As a member of the Urban Forestry Advisory Committee, I am disappointed to see what is being suggested tonight. I believe this Committee should be made independent of the Design Commission and be allowed to deal with more issues regarding the City's Tree Ordinance and the protection of our City Canopy. I have heard from some members of the Design Commission that they are not interested in reviewing tree issues, some feel they are not very knowledgeable in this area, or that they just don't want to spend more time on their meetings.

After what we have just experienced as a result of the windstorm and the damage it did to our Urban Forest, we need to involve UFAC more to help with educating the public about the proper care of trees, to make sure the tree ordinance is enforced and that the right trees are planted in the right place.

The service and benefits this Committee would provide more than outweigh the cost to the City which in my opinion is very minuscule.

As a Board Member of the Street Tree Seminar Inc, I am also their Los Angeles and Orange County Regional representative on the California Urban Forests Council (CaUFC). I know the importance of trees and how essential they are to our health and how they make our neighborhoods more livable, they are more than a beautiful feature in a landscape. At every Conference I attend people are impressed when I mention that Pasadena has an Urban Forestry Committee, I know for a fact that it does help when applying for Grants.

During these hard times when you are letting employees go, you might want to consider not just getting rid of some Committees but also not paying the Planning Commission Members for instance, that would save The City about \$ 10,000 a year. The Government code might require you to do that, however you can choose not to pay people who are supposed to be doing their civic duty.

You might also save a lot of money by not providing a large spread of food at various meetings. A tray of sandwiches and a bowl of salad is more than sufficient, we do not need to spend a lot of money on food that people end up taking home with them.

In closing I urge you to consider making UFAC stronger and have it report directly to the City Manager and the Council instead of the Design Commission.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

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**Item 7**