

Jomsky, Mark

From: Emina Darakjy <emina@earthlink.net>
Sent: Monday, April 30, 2018 3:26 AM
To: Jomsky, Mark
Subject: Agenda item 16

Dear Mayor Tornek, members of the Council and City Manager

Since I am not able to attend tonight's meeting in person, I hope you will consider my comments from Paris with it's beautiful trees.

First I would like to thank staff both in the Public Works Department (forestry Division) and the Planning and Community Department and in particular Ara Maloyan and David Reyes for realizing the need to do something to protect our Urban Forest further from those who continue to violate our present Tree Protection Ordinance (TPO). This is a step in the right direction.

Having said that, I would like to see the increase to the amounts of penalties much higher in order to show those who damage or kill trees both public and private that Pasadena values it's trees and is very serious about making sure this does not occur.

Under Penalties and Administrative Proceedings why are we limiting fines to no more than \$ 1000? I would like to see them at \$5000 OR at least an amount in between the two. Plus the assessed value of the tree should it die as the result of the damage done to it.

Under Infractions, I would like to see the fine changed to \$500 per tree.

Civil Penalties should be higher too. This is our chance to do it right as who knows when the next changes will occur.

I also would like to see the city be able to revoke permits when a person is caught violating our TPO more than once AND go as far as preventing a developer from submitting their projects for a certain number of months and even years (depending on the severity of the case). This was successfully done in other cities.

Unfortunately over the many years I have lived in Pasadena, I have seen hundreds of trees cut down by developers OR even worse be allowed to die (on purpose) while boxed waiting to be relocated on site. The worse case I can think of is the Westgate Project where every tree in those 64 inch and 84 inch boxes at the corner of Pasadena Ave and Green street died and apartments surfaced in their place.

I also would like to see any private tree removal request meet more than ONE finding before a removal permit is granted.

Why are we protecting private trees ONLY if they are planted within a certain zone of the lot? If they meet the protection guidelines they should be protected period non matter where they are planted.

Any trees that are removed (with permit) or die should be replaced with similar species. Very often developers replace them with flowering much smaller trees. An oak, pine, magnolia for instance should never be replaced with a crepe myrtle.

When dealing with significant tree removal requests I urge you to always obtain a second opinion from an independent arborist. Unfortunately on more than one occasion I have seen arborists (some I personally know) write anything in their report to make a tree disappear for their clients.

With regards to amending OR changing the Master Street Tree Plan I would like to see this done with public participation and input.

What is taking place this evening is a very good thing and I hope that more amendments to the complete TPO will be considered at a later date.

Thank you for the opportunity to be heard.

With best regards,

Emina Darakjy