

Jomsky, Mark

From: Thomas Seifert <tdseifert@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, March 26, 2018 3:23 PM
To: Jomsky, Mark
Subject: Tonight's Agenda Item Relevant to Tree Ordnances

Mark: Please forward.....

Dear Mayor Tornek and Members of the City Council:

I strongly support increasing the fines and penalties covering tree removal but ask that they be made more meaningful. A few thousands of dollars here and there are meaningless to developers so they must be significant for them to think twice.

Trees are Pasadena's lifeblood and signature. Don't skimp; go HIGH!

Thank you,

Tom Seifert
436 South Arroyo Blvd.
Pasadena 91105

Jomsky, Mark

From: David Battany <dbattany@guildmortgage.net>
Sent: Monday, March 26, 2018 4:44 PM
To: Jomsky, Mark
Cc: Nina Chomsky; Suzuki, Takako
Subject: Letter Regarding Tree Ordinance - Tonight's City Council Meeting

Mark – I would like to submit this email for consideration as a constituent's letter for tonight's City Council Meeting related to the proposed enhancements to the City's tree ordinance. I am a 30-year resident and have lived at 1175 Linda Vista Avenue since 1995.

March 26, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter to express my support for enhancing the City's tree ordinance to better protect our city from homeowners or property developers who would intentionally cut down trees in violation of City ordinance, to improve the profitability or buildability of their land parcel, knowing that the small fees they may receive in punishment, are more than offset by the increased profitability of their property development or construction project.

The key elements of an enhanced tree ordinance should include:

1. Significantly increased financial penalties that would clearly exceed the financial benefit received by the property owner. In many cases, a property value could increase in hundreds of thousands of dollars by removing oak trees that otherwise restrict the location and size of the building that can be constructed. The penalty should equal a large flat fee, of say \$25,000 plus any estimated increase in assessed property value. There should be zero doubt in a property developer's decision making that intentionally cutting down a protected tree will carry a punishment exceeding any hoped for gain.
2. The ordinance should also include very clear language that whatever zoning benefit accrues to a property owner who illegally removes a tree, the resulting benefit should be withheld from that and all future property owners for a time period of at least ten years. So for example, if a large oak tree was in the center of a land lot, prohibiting any new construction under its drip line circumference, if the tree is illegally damaged or removed, the original circumference should be preserved and no building could occur under its previous drip line by any future owners for at least ten years. It may be wise to record this information as a lien on the property, so all future property buyers would know this information before they buy the property that had a previous illegal tree removal.

I am sorry that I cannot attend tonight's meeting, but please feel free to contact me if you have any questions related to this letter?

Thank you, David

David Battany
626-716-1453 mobile