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Cc: Owen Smith, President – GWNC, president@greaterwilshire.org
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Re: Transmittal of a Neighborhood Council Motion on Street Tree Preservation

Date: 26 November 2018





At a duly noticed meeting of its Board on 11/14/2018, the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council unanimously voted to support the following motion on the City of LA's urban canopy:

In view of the continued unpermitted taking of mature city parkway trees, the GWNC respectfully requests that the City Attorney's Office and the City Administrative Office, after appropriate analyses, prepare a set of actions for the city to take that would effectively:

1. Establish an integrated process for any submissions for plan and permit approval that includes the documentation of existing parkway trees and that all parkway trees are preserved unless a determination is made by BOE that that relocation and/or replacement is absolutely necessary;
2. Notify the cognizant Neighborhood Council of all permits pending approval of City parkway or other protected trees and allow at least 45 days for the public comment;
3. Establish financial and other penalties for the unapproved or unpermitted taking of city parkway trees that are demonstrably sufficient to both deter these actions as well as to support the costs of enforcement, prosecution, and full restitution;
4. Establish a staff unit in the City Attorney's Office charged with putting in place needed evidentiary rules, the swift and effective prosecution of illegal taking or damaging of City tree assets, and the recovery of restitution;
5. Establish one of more immediate reporting and response mechanisms whereby those that discover the potentially unpermitted destruction of a City tree in progress might be able to intervene and possibly deter the further immediate destruction of City assets;



6. Provide for an ensured funding resource for the establishment and operation of the above measures and the adoption of appropriate budget actions.

The crafting of this motion was guided by lively discussion with stakeholders not only at GWNC Land Use and General Board meetings, but from out in our community as well. It is safe to say that the protection, growth, and maintenance of the city's urban canopy is a subject we are all very passionate about. As such, we very much look forward to hearing back from, and engaging with, your office regarding the issues raised in the motion. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions.

We thank you for your interest in the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council.

Regards,

Max Kirkham

Secretary, Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council