



San Francisco Public Works
General – Director’s Office
City Hall, Room 348
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, S.F., CA 94102
(415) 554-6920 www.SFPublicWorks.org

Public Works Order No: 202958

The Director of Public Works held a Public Hearing on Monday, January 27th, 2020 commencing at 5:30 PM at City Hall, Room 416, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco, CA 94102. The hearing was to consider Order No. 202516 for the removal of five (5) street trees with replacement in preparation for the Palou Ave. Street Improvement project adjacent to 1501 Quint Street.

Findings:

At the hearing, Bureau of Urban Forestry (BUF) stated that staff approved the removal of five street trees, all fruit trees adjacent to 1501 Quint. Species include two Loquat trees and three apple trees. Staff acknowledged the trees are in good/fair condition and though they appear to be privately maintained or on private property, they are located in the public right of way. The right of way is 15’ measured from the face of curb.

A Public Works design team member and SFMTA representative explained the design intent for the improvement. The purpose of the new design is to improve traffic measures and safety as part of achieving Vision Zero. This is a priority site for improvements. The plan reduces the crossing distance across Silver Ave. Because of some concern that the public will not adhere to the closure of Quint Street, the design incorporates a physical barrier of trees and bollards to prevent cars from jumping the curb. The design also aligns the pedestrian path of travel, a six-foot thoroughfare for pedestrians with the crosswalk.

One member of the public called into the hearing remotely.

Four members of the public, included one remote caller, gave testimony at the hearing and comments are listed here and paraphrased as follows:

- Six feet is only a preferred requirement for ADA access and this can be reduced to preserve the trees.
- A request for contractors, designers, and City planners involved in capital projects to maintain trees as SF has the smallest Urban Forestry canopy of any large city, and now is not the time to remove trees. The protesting public implores the City to do better.
- A resident of the adjacent property testified that the trees are very special and meaningful to her. The trees provide fruit and quick access to healthy food in a food desert. She has used parts of the loquat tree for its healing properties.
- The trees are in good condition and are not dangerous. Why must they be removed?

A site visit determined that an appropriate path of travel can be maintained as well as some of the property side trees without affecting the integrity of the design and site improvement. Baumann, the landscape contractor, said however it would not be worth spading and transplanting three of the small

apple trees. Trees of this size can be replaced in kind. The community-approved design will install ten (10) new Fruitless Olive trees. There will be a net of seven (7) new trees.

Recommendation:

After consideration of a site visit, correspondence and testimony provided at the hearing, the decision is to approve removal of three apple trees. The project is required to protect in place the two Loquat trees that are adjacent to the building located at 1501 Quint Street.

Appeal:

This order may be appealed to the Board of Appeals within 15 days of April 8th, 2020.

Protester requests additional time to due to disability (speech) issues

Board of Appeals

1650 Mission, Room 304

San Francisco, CA 94103 (between Van Ness and Duboce Avenues)

Phone: 415.575.6880 Fax: 415.575.6885

Regular office hours of the Board of Appeals are Monday through Friday from 8am to 5pm.

Appointments may be made for filing an appeal by calling 415-575-6880. All appeals must be filed in person. For additional information on the San Francisco Board of Appeals and to view the Appeal Process Overview, please visit their website at <http://sfgov.org/bdappeal/>

X

DocuSigned by:



8170376CB4404A5...

Acting Director of Public Works