

PAR Planning Association for the Richmond

3145 Geary Blvd., # 205 - San Francisco CA 94118-3316

Voicemail ~ 415.974.9332 -- Fax ~ 415.641.8621 -- Email ~ president@sfpar.org -- www.sfpar.org

18 December 2006

City Operations & Neighborhood Services Committee
Supervisors McGoldrick, Duffy and Jew

RE: Today's Agenda items 8 & 9 - landmark designation for trees in assessor's Block 1617

Dear Supervisors:

I am writing on behalf of PAR, the Planning Association for the Richmond, in support of designating these trees as Landmark Trees.

PAR, founded in 1970, is the largest neighborhood association in San Francisco. We have a dues-paying membership of approximately 1,500 households in the Richmond District. As noted in our By-Laws, one of our purposes is to "Develop and implement policies and recommendations for the maintenance and enhancement of the physical and social dimensions of life in the Richmond District.

PAR has been following the request to enlarge the dwelling at 733-27th Ave., and in doing so, we have become aware of the unique qualities of this mid-block open space. It is not only well preserved in its very open character, but has a special feature of a former community park with access through easements from three of the four surrounding streets. While this space is now privately owned, it has been maintained with care, is a special joy to all of the block's residents, and contributes to the special quality of the mid-block open space. The mature trees in the mid-block space are particularly important in its preservation.

The proposed expansion of 733-27th Ave. Will, according to the Arborist's report, threaten the health of the two trees and their designation as Landmark Trees will ensure that they are properly cared for.

In addition, I want to mention that the proposed dwelling expansion would build over one of the historic easements that provided access to the community garden and is now being reviewed by the Planning Department.

Sincerely,



Peter Winkelstein
Chair, Land Use Committee
Planning Association for the Richmond

Valerie Louie
730 28th Ave.
San Francisco, CA
94121

San Francisco Dept. of the Environment
City and County of San Francisco
111 Grove St.
San Francisco, CA
94102

Feb. 26, 2007

Dear Member of the Urban Forestry Council,

As a third-generation San Franciscan, I am proud to live in the most beautiful city in the world. Part of what makes this city so unique and lovely is the dedication of our residents to maintain the beauty that is so inherent. San Francisco's neighborhoods are a testimonial to that beauty.

I am fortunate that my own house and property has a place in the history of the Richmond district. Because it was the first house built on the block and its former owner was a renowned botanist, the property is home to several mature trees, most notably a California buckeye (*Aesculus californica*). Also, there is a holly tree (*Ilex altaclarensis*) that is very close to the property line and could have possibly been placed there by the former owners of my house. Both of these trees add a wonderful measure of nature and serenity in my own backyard. During the spring and summer, the foliage is incredible. The trees supply security, privacy and protection from prying eyes, which, due to recent traumatic events, are very important to my seven-year-old son and me. Many birds have nested in these trees over the years as well.

Please save these trees by recommending them for landmark status. These trees are important to our neighborhood's beauty and they provide privacy, shelter and shade.

But they are also a part of the history of San Francisco and deserve to be treated with dignity and reverence.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Valerie Louie

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Date: Sat, 9 Dec 2006 20:17:58 -0800 (PST)

From: "Valerie Louie" <v.louie@sbcglobal.net> [Add to Address Book](#) [Add Mobile Alert](#)

Subject: California buckeye tree at 730 28th ave.

To: cassandra.costello@sfgov.org, jake.mcgoldrick@sfgov.org

CC: cherylschultz1@yahoo.com

Hi Cassandra,

Thank you for your phone message yesterday. I am sorry that I did not get to call you back. However, I have attached some photos of the California Buckeye as well as a letter for Supervisor McGoldrick. Please contact me via cell phone (number below) if you need more information.

I was unaware of the treasure in my backyard! I imagine that there are many other homeowners who are just as ignorant (hopefully, not by choice) about the wonders of the Richmond district. I sincerely thank Cheryl Schultz for her passionate drive in maintaining the quality of life in our neighborhood. I fully support the conservation of the flavor of this neighborhood and of the natural icons (California Buckeye, holly tree and other native plants) that add to the greening of our neighborhood.

Thank you very much for your assistance!

Sincerely,
Valerie Louie
730 28th Ave.
SF

"There is nothing to fear except the persistent refusal to find out the truth,

the persistent refusal to analyze the causes of happenings."
Dorothy Thompson, (1894 - 1961)