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Urban Forestry Council  
City Hall  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

Re: Landmark Nomination of Holly Tree at 733-27<sup>th</sup> Avenue

To the Members of the Urban Forestry Council:

We are the next door neighbors of the property located at 733-27<sup>th</sup> Avenue on which the landmark nominated holly tree is located. We have lived in our home for ten years and have enjoyed the beauty of this fine tree as well as the privacy and distinction that it brings to the neighborhood. It holds special significance as it also provides habitat for the many colorful song birds that we love to admire -- most notably the scrub jays, mockingbirds, hummingbirds and goldfinches that frequent this tree.

We made an urgent request to Supervisor Jake McGoldrick on November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2006, that the tree be nominated for landmark status because of its significance on our block and our concern that this tree was in imminent danger of being destroyed.

On November 5<sup>th</sup> and November 6<sup>th</sup> of 2006, the property owners at 733-27<sup>th</sup> Avenue (Mason and Laurie Quach) began what can only be described as a chainsaw massacre of many trees and decorative shrubs and bushes in their backyard. The Quachs' were systematically removing the trees from their yard -- why? We may never know.

We regret that we were unable to attend the meeting of the Landmark Tree Committee held on February 13<sup>th</sup> during which the recommendation for landmark status of the holly tree was debated. We received no notification of the meeting until our neighbor, Valerie Louie, forwarded an e-mail from Grace Ma the day of the hearing. We do not understand why we were not notified of the meeting given that we have carefully followed the procedures for tree nomination including appearing before the Community Operations and Neighborhood Services Committee of the Board of Supervisors on December 18, 2006, to request that this nomination be put forth. At that meeting we submitted petitions of support from many of our neighbors on the block as well as a letter of support for the nomination from the Planning Association for the Richmond ("PAR"). It is our understanding that these documents were not made available to the Landmark Tree Committee for their meeting. We appreciate that the procedures for landmarking trees

are new and some of the procedural wrinkles have yet to be worked out -- including notification of interested parties of meeting dates and submission of documents.

With respect to the subject holly tree, we respectfully submit that this tree is an integral part of the mid-block open space of this Richmond neighborhood block and deserves landmark status. This tree is part of the rich historic significance of our neighborhood and it was recognized as such by the Board of Supervisors on January 10, 2006.

This holly tree is a part of the historic fabric of our neighborhood. Arborist Roy Leggitt speculates that the tree dates back to the nineteen teens and early nineteen twenties when holly trees were frequently cultivated in San Francisco. It was during that time period that the many of houses on this block were constructed including the historic Meyer Brothers house at 733-27<sup>th</sup> Avenue owned by the Quachs.

This holly tree, which is a male, has two beautiful healthy female holly trees in near proximity in the mid-block open space that rely on the nominated tree as the pollen source for the bright red berries that these trees are so well known for. The three holly trees appear to be of the same age, suggesting that the trees were part of the original plan for the mid-block open space. If the male tree were to be destroyed, it would significantly diminish the beauty and value of the two female holly trees.

This particular holly tree is important because of its age, its historic association, and its contribution to the neighborhood character. It stands out in a low tree density neighborhood and may be seen by many neighbors on the block. It survives in a harsh environment with strong winds and sandy soil and provides a natural privacy and wind barrier to the houses on the eastern and western sides of the block.

Finally, we wish to address the supposition made by the Committee that a vote to not landmark this tree will not jeopardize the tree. Laurie Quach's assertions to the Committee that all she wants to do is protect the trees in her yard are inconsistent with the actions taken last November when they removed virtually all of the other trees in their yard. Without landmark protection, we fear that this holly tree may be the next to go.

We strongly urge this Council to grant landmark status to this worthy, beautiful holly tree.

Respectfully submitted,



Douglas and Cheryl Schultz