

September 07, 2010

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter regarding the request for Landmark Status for the tree at 4441 20th St, San Francisco. We have owned the house at 311/309 Eureka St, SF since 1963 and the tree extends over the top of our house. We hope to keep this house forever in our family. We are concerned that granting Landmark Status would impact our ability to make improvements to our house in the future. As the property owners of 311/309 Eureka St, adjoining the property upon which the tree is located, we ask that you do not grant this status.

Sincerely,

Josie Friel and Gabriel Friel

Handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Josie Friel" on the top line and "Gabriel Friel" on the bottom line.

Dear Urban Forestry Council,

I am writing regarding the request for Landmark Status for the tree at 4441 20th Street. My name is Myra Friel and I live at 311 Eureka Street in a building that has been owned by my family for over 46 years. Our property adjoins 4441 20th St and the tree canopies over my house and the apartment building next door to me. I appreciate and value this tree, but I have concerns that given the proximity of the tree to our building, the decision to grant Landmark status would have a far greater impact on our property than it would on the property owner who is requesting the Landmark status. For this reason, I am asking that you do not grant the tree Landmark status.

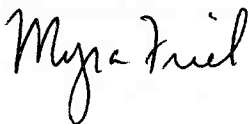
I have lived in this building for the last 17 years and our family has had a good relationship with George King during the time that he has lived at 4441 20th St.. I appreciate that he is passionate about the tree in his backyard and know that he has been actively soliciting support for his nomination widely throughout the neighborhood. It is easy for someone who lives blocks away to lend their support because this decision has no immediate impact on their lives or their property. In fact, this decision is not likely to negatively impact George's building or ability to make modifications to his building because the tree is at the back of his lot, closer to the buildings that adjoin his lot than his own.

I understand that the intent of the program is to provide protection for these trees, and when we make improvements to our property in the future, we are committed to doing everything we can to protect the tree. In fact, considering the proximity of the tree to our property and its size, it will be in our best interest to make responsible choices in order to keep the tree healthy and stable. The required tree protection isn't why we object to this nomination. Rather, it is the potential for this status to impede or prohibit any improvements we would like to make simply because there is a designated Landmark tree involved.

As I understand it, this is usually a decision undertaken by a property owner with the understanding that it could limit their ability to improve their house if it is close to the tree and is something that must be disclosed to potential buyers should they choose to sell their home. This designation is a major commitment and it is a decision that should be supported 100% by the property owners in close proximity to the nominated tree rather than a decision initiated by a single property owner. That isn't the case with this nomination.

We are committed to the safety and health of the tree but in order to balance that with our need to protect our family's legacy, we ask that you do not grant this tree Landmark status.

Thank you,
Myra Friel
311 Eureka Street

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Myra Friel". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "M".

This is the property of the nominee



This image shows the location of the tree and my house (indicated by the arrow).

September 8, 2010

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to request that the tree at 4441 20th Street (at Eureka Street) not be granted landmark status.

I know that the property owner has a personal connection to the tree and feels very strongly about it but I don't feel this that this warrants the nomination of this tree. The type of tree that has been nominated is fairly common in the neighborhood and the significance of this to they city at large is not clear to me. There is one cypress tree on the next block to the east of Eureka Street, and several on the hill directly to the west of Eureka Street. They are all beautiful no doubt, but I don't see what is unique about the one at 4441 20th Street that it should be considered Landmark.

The landmark status places a large number of restrictions on the property on which the tree resides and the adjoining properties. I could imagine supporting this nomination if the tree only impacted the requestor's property, but that is not the case. A tree should only be granted landmark status with the consent and agreement of the adjoining property owners.

Thank you,



Emily Scott
311 Eureka Street
San Francisco, Ca