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Library Commission
100 Larkin St. 94102

Dec 16, 2021 re: Appeals 21-080 – 21-085

Dear Library Commissioners,

I write you as a resident of the Tenderloin and as an environmental & cultural worker for thirty-seven years in San Francisco; as an appellant in two separate DPW efforts to remove all the mature trees around the Main Library, three years apart. I write on behalf of the expanded Library Grove Working Group which Main Library and DPW Leadership were members of along with appellants in the first removal process in 2018. This group was formed at the direction of DPW with the mission of creating a true plan for care of the significant resource of the grove of trees surrounding the Main Library.

This letter informs you of our effort to halt the felling of any Library Grove trees to allow reformation of the Working Group (since all appeals of ruling of November 10, 2021 are exhausted). DPW prevailed in that ruling and is now under no obligation to consult with residents who have invested hundreds of hours in good faith to produce a Management Plan that was 95% BOA approved in 2019 & 2020 and now is being completely ignored.

Understanding that, though just and appropriate, this reconsideration we call for would be an unusual action on the part of the City we place it in the context of:

- the unprecedented mismanagement and misalignment documented in the SF BLA report¹.
- the dangerous deficit of forest city-wide (13% and falling) and in the Tenderloin in extremis (3-4% and falling)
- the declared climate crisis in San Francisco, which could be addressed in significant measure if our Forest management were aligned with the SF Env Climate Action Plan

¹ SF Budget and Legal Analyst Performance Audit available at:
https://sfbos.org/sites/default/files/061421_PA_of_DPW_Street_Resurfacing_Prog_%26_StreetTreeSF%20Prog.pdf



- passage of CA AB 1000, which immediately requires re-alignment of city priorities to account for legacy environmental injustices, especially relevant in the Tenderloin – Mid-Market area
- decisions with respect to trees occur on the 50-year scale, outliving all of us for good or ill

The Tenderloin Mid-Market neighborhoods are legacy Environmental Justice communities with profound environmental health conditions that merit special consideration, particularly with regard to engaging us who carry the burden of these issues in determining our solutions at least in partnership with the City.

We urge you to stand with us on this Grove of trees and the community process to care for them. We thank you in advance for the courage, stamina and imagination that will be required to bring our policy infrastructure into alignment with our City's environmental values. We continue to offer our help with this worthwhile effort, not because it is easy but because it is necessary.

Kasey Rios Asberry
Resident of the Tenderloin;
Mid-Market Coalition, Tenderloin Peoples' Congress, SF Tree Roundtable and the
Library Grove Working Group;
Co-Chair of SF Planning's Environmental Justice Working Group;
Executive Director of Demonstration Gardens @ SF Federal Plaza

Cc: Supervisor Haney, Supervisor Peskin, Supervisor Walton, Supervisor Mar,
Supervisor Preston, Supervisor Mandelman;
Tree Roundtable, Mid-Market Coalition, Tenderloin Peoples' Congress, SF Sierra Club
Executive Committee, 350 Bay Area