

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
BUREAU OF STREET SERVICES  
REPORT NO. 1  
Page 1 of 4  
Date: February 5, 2018  
CD# 04

Honorable Board of Public Works  
Of the City of Los Angeles

Commissioners:

**750 SOUTH SPAULDING AVENUE – CITYWIDE SIDEWALK REPAIR PROGRAM IN COUNCIL DISTRICT FOUR REQUEST BOARD AUTHORIZE A NO-FEE PERMIT TO REMOVE TWELVE INDIAN LAUREL FIG (FICUS MICROCARPA) TREES FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE OFFGRADE PUBLIC SIDEWALK. TREE REPLACEMENTS ARE REQUIRED.**

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. FIND that the tree removal (1) classifies as operation, repair, maintenance or minor alteration of existing street, sidewalk, and gutter, involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that previously existing; and does not involve the removal of a scenic resource; (2) that the action is exempt under Article III, Section 1, Class 1, Category 3 (existing facilities – sidewalk repair or maintenance) of the City of Los Angeles Environmental Quality Act Guidelines (2002); and (3) that none of the exceptions to the use of a categorical exemption as set forth in Section 15300.2 of the State CEQA Guidelines apply.
2. Review and approve this tree removal permit request for the removal of twelve Indian Laurel Fig (*Ficus microcarpa*) trees located at 750 South Spaulding Avenue for the reconstruction of an off-grade sidewalk. Tree replacements are required.

**TRANSMITTALS:**

1. Copy of fax sheet sent to Council Office.
2. Service Request #1-805376691
3. Property owner's authorization for tree removal.
4. Letter from Michael Govan, Los Angeles County Museum of Art.
5. Letter from Jim O'Sullivan, Miracle Mile Residents Association.
6. Photos of the trees.

**CONDITION:**

All tree replacements comply with the Board of Public Works 2:1 tree replacement policy and shall be planted by the Office of Community Beautification (OCB) or its contractor. The Urban Forestry Division shall begin weekly watering of the tree replacements upon tree planting confirmation from the OCB. Tree watering shall continue for a three year period.

- Twelve 24-inch box size Natchez Crape Myrtle (*Lagerstroemia Natchez*) trees to be replanted at 750 South Spaulding Avenue.
- Twelve 24-inch box size Chinese Fringe (*Chionanthus retusus*) trees to be replanted at the following addresses on the 800 block of South Alandale Avenue: three at 803, two at 821, one at 845, two at 850, two at 865, one at 872, and one at 874.

**ALTERNATIVE METHODS AND OPTIONS EXPLORED:**

The size, species, and location of the trees negate the possibility of tree preservation or relocation.

**RECITAL:**

The Bureau of Engineering (BOE) is the lead agency in identifying defective sidewalks at several locations throughout the City of Los Angeles as part of the Citywide Sidewalk Repair Program. BOE and its contractors are working in close collaboration with the Bureau of Street Services (Bureau) in addressing potential impacts to street trees adjacent to targeted locations.

The BOE contacted the Bureau in reference to reconstruction of off-grade sidewalk conditions at 750 South Spaulding Avenue. A Bureau Arborist inspected the subject location on August 08, 2017. The inspection revealed four Indian Laurel Fig (*Ficus microcarpa*) trees in front of the address and eight Indian Laurel Fig trees on the West 8<sup>th</sup> Street side of the address. The trees are in fair health measuring approximately twenty-four inches in diameter by approximately thirty feet in height growing in five feet by eight feet tree wells with seven feet to nine feet six-inch sidewalks.

The Bureau is proposing to replace the defective sidewalks due to uplift and severe disruption by the roots and root crowns of the subject trees. The trees have severely outgrown their growing space and defective sidewalks are prevalent throughout the area. The required root pruning to allow the trees to remain would significantly and adversely affect the trees' health and roots' structural integrity leaving them potentially unstable. Hence, sidewalk reconstruction will require tree removal.

### **CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)**

The Bureau finds the tree removal (1) classifies as operation, repair, maintenance or minor alteration of existing street, sidewalk, and gutter, involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that previously existing; and does not involve the removal of a scenic resource; (2) that the action is exempt under Article III, Section 1, Class 1, Category 3 (existing facilities – sidewalk repair or maintenance) of the City of Los Angeles Environmental Quality Act Guidelines (2002); and (3) that none of the exceptions to the use of a categorical exemption as set forth in Section 15300.2 of the State CEQA Guidelines apply.

The CEQA Guidelines for Street Tree Removal and Replacements were used in making this finding and are on file with the Bureau and available to the public upon request.

### **CONCLUSION**

Daniel Park, District Advocate, Council District Four, was informed of the tree removal request on December 27, 2017 and will notify the Bureau of any objections received by their office.

Public comments on this tree removal request will be received and heard, both in-writing and in-person, during the scheduled public hearing with the Board. The following public noticing of this tree removal permit was conducted:

- Notice of the proposed tree removals were physically posted on the subject trees on August 8, 2017.
- Proposed tree removals were included in the BSS Tree Removal Notification System.
- The Community Forest Advisory Committee was notified.

The Bureau's Urban Forestry Division shall begin weekly watering of the tree replacements upon tree planting confirmation from the OCB. Tree watering shall continue for a three year period.

- Twelve 24-inch box size Natchez Crape Myrtle (*Lagerstroemia Natchez*) trees to be replanted at 750 South Spaulding Avenue.
- Twelve 24-inch box size Chinese Fringe (*Chionanthus retusus*) trees to be replanted at the following addresses on South Alandale Avenue: three at 803, two at 821, one at 845, two at 850, two at 865, one at 872, and one at 874.

All tree replacements comply with the Board of Public Works 2:1 tree replacement policy and shall be planted by the Office of Community Beautification (OCB) or its contractor.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
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Page 4 of 4  
Date: February 5, 2018  
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The applicant has been advised of the recommendations contained in this report.

(TT----NS----GS)

Respectfully submitted,

For   
\_\_\_\_\_  
NAZARIO SAUCEDA, DIRECTOR  
BUREAU OF STREET SERVICES

Prepared by:  
Urban Forestry Division  
Ext. 7-3077

NS/GS/TT/HB:dm  
S:\Board Reports\2017 board reports\750 S Spaulding Ave

**TREE REMOVAL NOTIFICATION**

**DATE:** December 27, 2017  
**# OF PAGES:** 1

**TO:**  
**COUNCIL DISTRICT:** 4  
**ATTENTION:** Nikki Ezhari/Alice Roth / Daniel Park / Yena Ji / Adeena Bleich  
**PHONE NUMBER:** 213-485-3337 / 818-755-7630  
**FAX NUMBER:** 213-473-2311 / alice.roth@lacity.org  
**EMAIL:** yena.ji@lacity.org / daniel.park@lacity.org / nikki.ezhari@lacity.org / adeena.bleich@lacity.org / alice.roth@lacity.org

**FROM: URBAN FORESTRY DIVISION**

Mail Stop #550  
 1149 S. Broadway, 4th Floor  
 Los Angeles, CA 90015  
**PHONE # :** (213) 847-3077  
**FAX:** (213) 847-3033

**MESSAGE:** The Urban Forestry Division received the following permit request to remove trees.

**REQUESTER'S INFO:** City of Los Angeles Bureau of Street Services.  
 c/o Sidewalk Repair Program  
 1149 S Broadway 4th Floor  
 Los Angeles, CA 90015

**PERMIT TYPE:** No-Fee Permit

**TREE LOCATION:** 750 S Spaulding Av Bid Pkg # 23 CRM # 1-805376691  
 Los Angeles, CA 90036 Location # 1027 WO #

**TREE QUANTITY AND SPECIES:** (12) Indian Laurel Fig (Ficus microcarpa)

**REASON FOR REQUEST:** Sidewalk Repair Program

**CEQA:** The tree removal(s) is/are (1) classified as operation, repair, maintenance or minor alteration of existing street, sidewalk, and gutter, involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that previously existing; and does not involve the removal of a scenic resource; (2) the action is exempt under Article III, Section 1, Class 1, Category 3 (existing facilities - sidewalk repair or maintenance) of the City of Los Angeles Environmental Quality Act Guidelines (2002); and (3) none of the exceptions to the use of a categorical exemption as set forth in Section 15300.2 of the State CEQA Guidelines apply.

**TREE REPLACEMENT REQUIREMENTS:**

**PLANTING QUANTITY AND SPECIES:** (12) 24-inch box size Natchez Crape Myrtle (Lagerstroemia natchez)  
 (12) 24-inch box size Chinese Fringe (Chionanthus retusus)

**FOR BUREAU OF STREET SERVICES USE ONLY**

- The above request has been reviewed and approved.
- The above request is denied.

**APPROVED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE APPROVED:** \_\_\_\_\_



Maricel El-Amin <maricel.el-amin@lacity.org>

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## Tree Removal Notification - 750 S Spaulding

1 message

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Maricel El-Amin <maricel.el-amin@lacity.org>

Wed, Dec 27, 2017 at 12:56 PM

To: Alice Roth <alice.roth@lacity.org>, Yena Ji <yena.ji@lacity.org>, Daniel Park <daniel.park@lacity.org>, Nikki Ezhari <nikki.ezhari@lacity.org>, Adeena Bleich <adeena.bleich@lacity.org>, Ryan Allen <rallen@labteam.org>

Please see attached.

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 **750 S Spaulding Av.pdf**  
15K

Service Request #: 1-805376691

Print

SR Status: Pending - Location inspected, work pending

### Summary

Service Type:	Street Tree Inspection
Contact:	DAVID m david.miranda@lacity.org <a href="#">Edit</a>
Location:	750 S SPAULDING AVE, 90036
Council District:	4
Thomas Bros:	633-B3
Maintenance Area:	North Central
Maintenance District:	109
Source of Request:	Call <a href="#">Edit</a>
Language:	English <a href="#">Edit</a>
Work Order Number:	N/A <a href="#">Edit</a>
Claim Number:	N/A <a href="#">Edit</a>
Submitted By:	David Miranda 11/04/2017 04:43 PM
Last Updated By:	David Miranda 12/12/2017 04:27 PM
Ticket Owner:	BSS
Assigned To:	109, UFD
Assignee:	N/A
Priority Level:	Normal <a href="#">Edit Priority</a>
Service Date:	N/A
Action Taken:	SR Created <a href="#">Edit</a>
Optional Tracking Code:	N/A <a href="#">Edit</a>

Attachments: [Edit](#)



Internal: David Miranda on 12/12/2017 04:22 PM



Internal: David Miranda on 12/12/2017 04:22 PM



Internal: David Miranda on 12/12/2017 04:22 PM



Internal: David Miranda on 12/12/2017 04:22 PM



Internal: David Miranda on 12/12/2017 04:22 PM



Internal: David Miranda on 12/12/2017 04:27 PM

### SR Details

Type:	Tree Diseased or Infested
Location:	Parkway

[EDIT SR DETAILS](#)

**Additional Location Info:** CITYWIDE SIDEWALK REPAIR PROGRAM. BSS-23..SITE # 1027. ASSIGNED TO CREW 001.

### Comments

Comment	Internal or External	Created By	Created Date
Inspection, There is also private property trees possibly contributing to the off-grade condition that I have informed HOA President Mark Overbaugh, He understood if this is the case UFD does not trim any roots on private property trees. He was asked to consult with a private tree care of his choice so that they may give him direction with there Private property trees.	Internal	David Miranda	12/12/2017 04:22 PM
Inspection: Inspection revealed Twelve Ficus microcarpa (Indian Laurel Fig) trees measuring approximately twenty-four in Diameter at chest height by approximately thirty feet in height all growing in five foot by eight-foot tree wells in fair health. All trees are heavily surface rooted. Of the (12) Ficus trees There are (8) trees growing in 5' x 8' tree wells on the 8th street side (S1-8) and there are (4) (f1-4) on the Spaulding street side in 4' x 7' tree wells...All 12 trees have outgrown grow space provided. Sidewalk repairs were done in the past at this site...	Internal	David Miranda	12/12/2017 04:22 PM
Property owners authorization for tree removals and a letter from Council office supporting the removals and repairs at this site have been uploaded.	Internal	David Miranda	12/12/2017 04:22 PM
Recommendations: That the board of public works grants permission to the Bureau of Street Services to remove (12) ficus trees at 750 S Spaulding Ave. and replant (24) 24" box size trees,....*Twelve 24-inch box size Natchez Crape Myrtle (Lagerstroemia Natchez) trees to be replanted at 750 S Spaulding Ave. *Twelve 24-inch box size Chinese Fringe (Chionanthus retusus) trees to be replanted at the following addresses on S Alandale Ave. (3) at 803, (2) at 821, (1) at 845, (2) at 850, (2) at 865, (1) at 872, (1) at 874... ALL WORK TO BE BY THE BUREAU OF STREET SERVICES. TREES WERE MARKED WITH A SINGLE WHITE LINE FOR REMOVAL AND SINGLE ORANGE DOTS FOR REPLANTS.	Internal	David Miranda	12/12/2017 04:22 PM

[ADD COMMENTS](#)

### SR Reassignment

Referred From	Referred To	Notes	Initiator	Date
No Reassignments				

[REASSIGN TICKET](#)

[CLONE TICKET](#)

[GAVE CALLER INFO](#)

### Parent SR(s)

SR#	SR Type	Link Initiator	Status	Linked Date	Action
No Data Found					

### Child SR(s)

SR#	SR Type	Link Initiator	Status	Linked Date	Action
No Data Found					

### BSS Inspection

Inspected/Reviewed By:	David Miranda	Inspection/Review Date:	08/08/2017 04:43 PM
Contact:	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No		
Inspection Crew:	David M. 001		
Work Required (Reason):	I - Inspected		

### BSS Closeout

Completed By:	
Crew:	
Approved By:	
Work Completed (Resolution):	Select..
Date Completed:	mm/dd/yyyy

SUBMIT



City of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
BUREAU OF STREET SERVICES

Managing the Urban Forest of the City of Los Angeles

**PROPERTY OWNER'S AUTHORIZATION FOR TREE REMOVAL, FOR PROPOSED SIDEWALK REPAIRS.**

Date 8-8-17

(I/we) Wilshire Galleria Board of Directors (am/are) the legal owner of real  
PRINT OWNER'S NAME

Property located at 750 S. SPANDLING  
ADDRESS

(Mr. / Ms.) Mark Oberbaum (President) is acting as (my/our)  
REPRESENTATIVE'S NAME

Agent. (I/we) give (my/our) permission and have no objection to the removal of  
12 Ficus trees.  
# OF TREES SPECIES

[Signature]  
SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE

DAVID MIRANDA, TREE SURGEON SUPERVISOR  
TEL: 213-847-3052 / FAX: 213-847-3033  
EMAIL: DAVID.MIRANDA@LACITY.ORG

As a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of disability and, upon request, will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to its programs, services and activities.

**LACMA** LOS ANGELES COUNTY MUSEUM OF ART  
5905 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD  
LOS ANGELES CALIFORNIA 90036

**MICHAEL GOVAN**  
CEO/WALLIS ANNEBERG DIRECTOR  
T 323 857 6001  
F 323 857 6148

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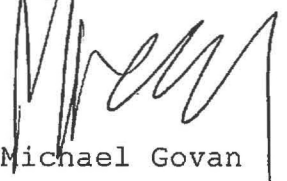
September 22, 2016

Office of David Ryu  
Los Angeles City Hall  
200 N. Spring Street, Room 425  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Councilman Ryu,

I write to express my support for the Wilshire Galleria Homeowners Association's proposed sidewalk repairs on S. Spaulding Avenue and 8th Street, as well as their Discretionary Funds Project Request Application to help pay for those repairs. As neighbors and visitors to the area are well aware, this stretch of pavement has been damaged by large street trees, making it very difficult for pedestrians to maneuver. Situated south of LACMA's entrance, these sidewalks are used daily by thousands of museum and other visitors to the Miracle Mile, many of whom are seniors and families with small children and strollers. It would be a tremendous help to our neighbors, the museums, and the larger community in the Miracle Mile if steps could be taken to make these sidewalks more useable for pedestrians.

Regards,



Michael Govan

Cc: Mark Overbaugh, President  
Wilshire Galleria Homeowners Association



May 19, 2016

David Ryu  
LA City Councilman  
Los Angeles City Hall  
200 N. Spring Street, Room 425  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear David,

The MMRA is in the process of compiling a photographic inventory of damaged sidewalks in our area. We aim to have it ready for submission by June 2016. We are not inclined to pick winners or losers in terms of prioritizing which sidewalks should be repaired first. But one of our functions is to help those residents who do reach out to the city for help, whether it be sidewalk repairs or any other issue.

For several years we have been facilitating communications between the board of directors of the Wilshire Galleria and the council office – beginning when Tom LaBonge was in office – in an effort to help them get the sidewalk repaired on the 8th Street side of their building. The Wilshire Galleria is a large condominium building that occupies the entire block north of 8th Street between Spaulding and Stanley.

Their sidewalk on the north side of 8th is hands down the worst stretch of sidewalk in the Miracle Mile. The pavement has been heaved and buckled by the roots of the large ficus trees that the city planted decades ago. The damage these trees have and continue to cause has left this sidewalk barely negotiable by able-bodied pedestrian; it is completely impassable to the elderly, disabled, and/or wheelchair bound. [See the photos below.] We agree with Wilshire Galleria that these ficus need to be replaced by trees from the city approved list with non-invasive roots and the sidewalks repaired as soon as possible.

The sidewalks between 8th Street and Wilshire Boulevard are the most heavily used sidewalks in our area – with large numbers of residents and visitors traversing these sidewalks to access the museums and businesses on Wilshire. The MMRA board of directors recently adopted a motion that these particular sidewalks are most critical to making the Miracle Mile a “walkable” neighborhood.

From our conversations with Mark Overbaugh, President of the Wilshire Galleria HOA, we understand that the HOA is willing to financially contribute to the replacement of the trees and

repair of the sidewalk. That would certainly help stretch what city funds are available for sidewalk repairs. We would encourage you to take advantage of this offer to get the ball rolling on repairing this sidewalk.

Our understanding is that Mr. Overbaugh has already been in contact with Nikki on this matter, but here is his contact information:

Mark Overbaugh, President  
Wilshire Galleria HOA  
mark.overbaugh@gmail.com

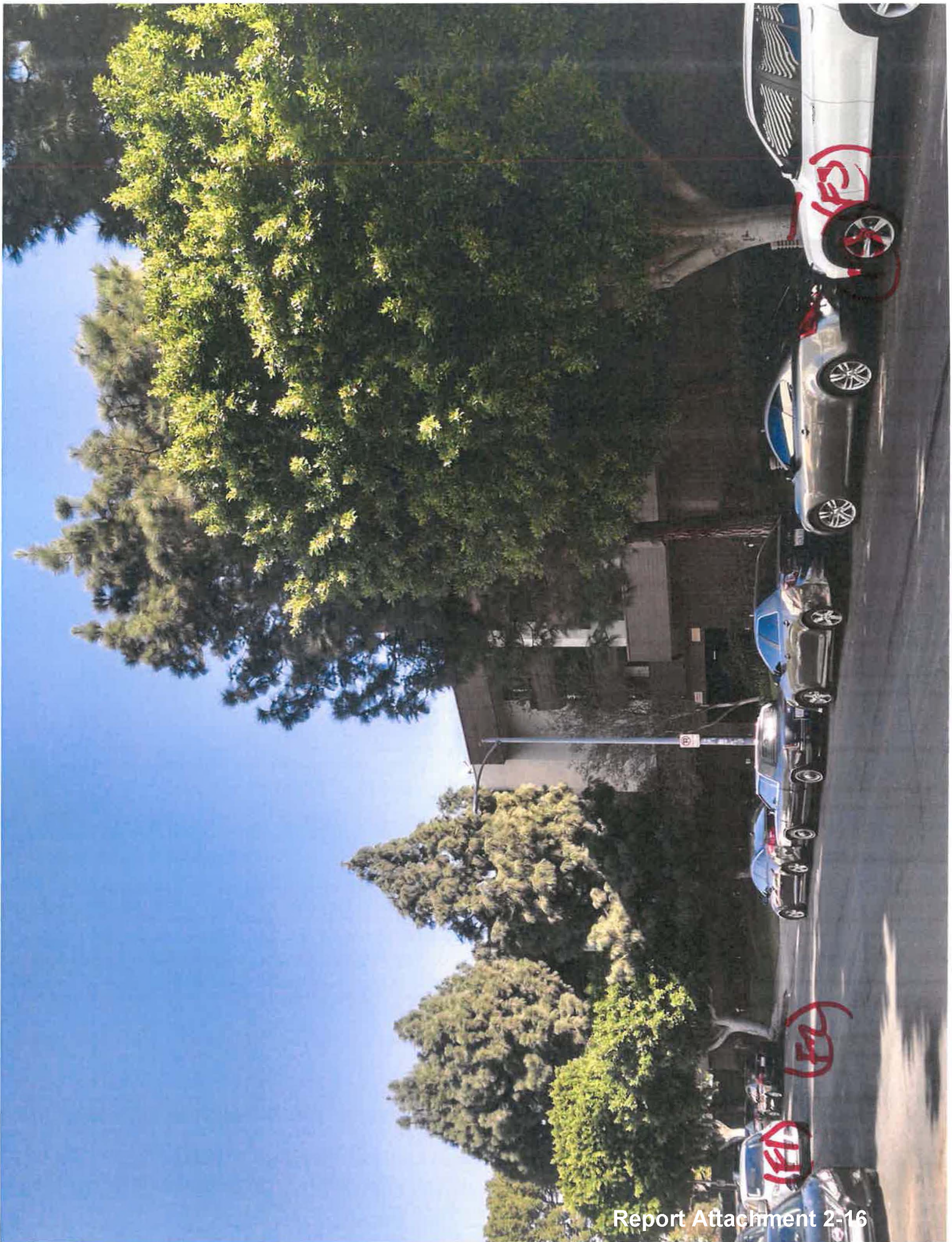
Thanks,

Jim O'Sullivan  
President,  
Miracle Mile Residents Association  
P.O. Box 361295  
Los Angeles, CA 90036-9495

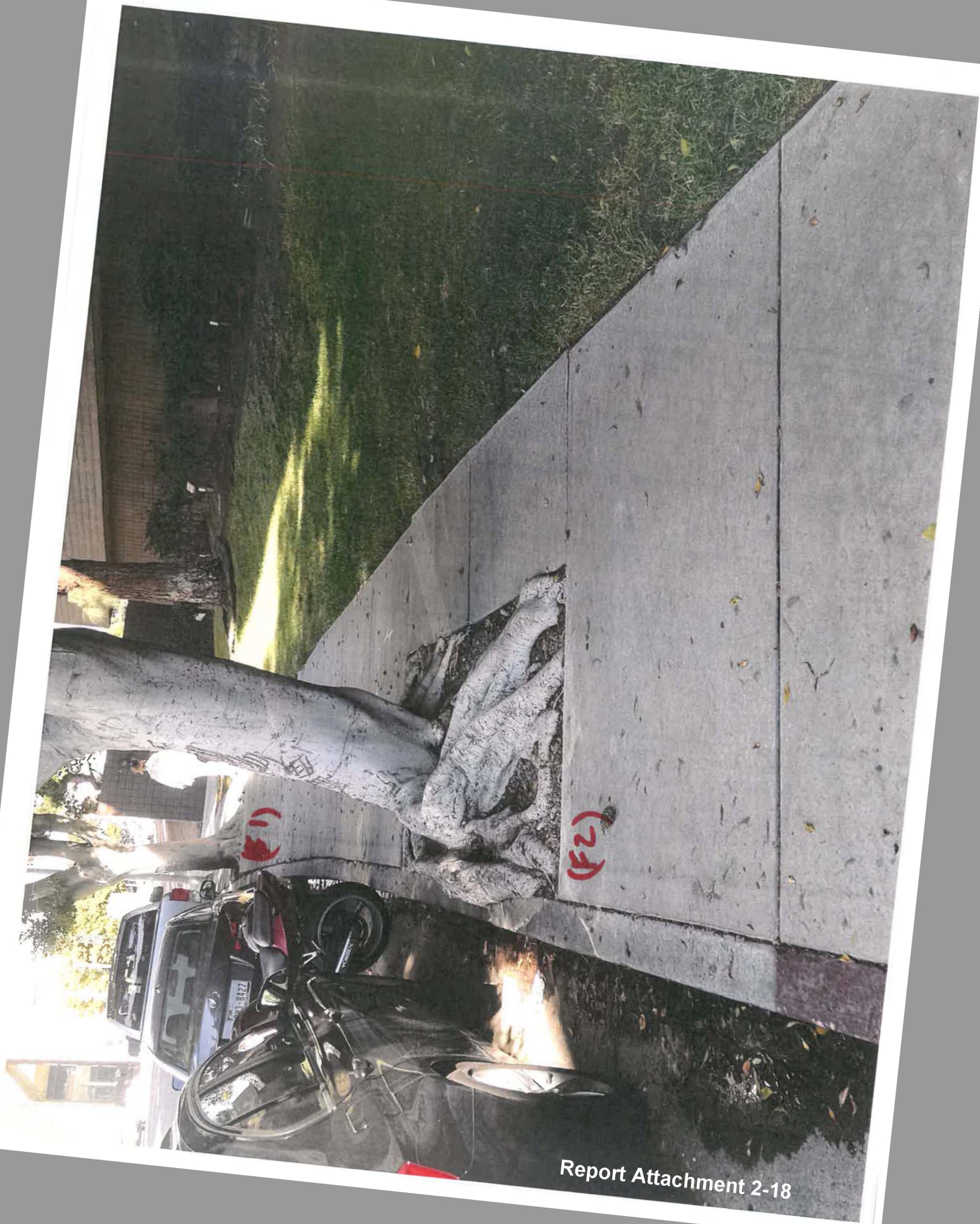












Report Attachment 2-18

