

NOTICE OF APPEAL
TO THE LOS ANGELES BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS
Of Hearing Examiner Report/Notice of Decision
Dated October 27, 2023
Regarding Misha Crosby and 8461 Grand View Drive, Los Angeles

Please take notice that Misha Crosby hereby appeals the Hearing Examiner Report/Notice of Decision ("Decision") dated October 27, 2023 to the Board of Public Works, pursuant to LAMC § 46.06(d).

The Department of Public Works, through its Hearing Examiner, erred on multiple factual matters, and abused its discretion in making the determination that Misha Crosby not be allowed to apply for any City of Los Angeles building permits for any new development at the property Mr. Crosby owns at 8461 Grand View Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90046 (the "Subject Property") for four years from the date of the decision, pursuant to LAMC § 46.06; which penalty is grossly excessive and punitive given the facts of this case. There is no evidence that Mr. Crosby knew that there were any protected trees in the area he wanted cleared on his lot. Indeed, though he now knows that two contractors cut down protected trees, he was told by both contractors there were no protected trees in the area he wanted cleared, and was told in writing they would not remove any protected trees.

Mr. Crosby appeals because the Decision contains factual errors not supported in the record; incorrect statements about the allegations presented by the UFD; and reached conclusions of facts that are against the weight of the evidence. As a result, the penalty assessed constitutes an abuse of discretion.

References herein to [Exhibit #] herein are references to Exhibits presented at the hearing by either the Urban Forestry Division ("UFD") or Mr. Crosby, and listed in the Decision. Mr. Crosby reserves the right to present additional argument and evidence at the appeal hearing before the Board.

SUMMARY OF ARGUMENT ON APPEAL

On appeal, Misha Crosby believes the clear preponderance of the evidence will show that, as found by the Hearing Examiner, Mr. Crosby relied on tree removal companies to verify that the trees on the property to be removed were not, in fact, protected trees; that the tree removal companies did remove some protected trees, in disregard and contrary to the clear written instructions of Mr. Crosby; and that Mr. Crosby is innocent of any intent to violate Los Angeles city ordinances. Mr. Crosby is prepared to plant replacement trees. The four year moratorium ordered by the Hearing Examiner is based on incorrect facts, is unnecessarily punitive, and should be reversed, and remanded for a determination of the proper remediation and planting of replacement trees on the property.

STATEMENT OF ERRORS AND ABUSE OF DISCRETION

1. Evidence is undisputed that the tree removal companies were directed in writing by Mr. Crosby not to remove any protected trees.

In the Decision, the “Hearing Examiner determined that the Property Owner [Mr. Crosby] attempted to utilize tree removal companies to verify that the trees to be removed were in fact not California protected trees.” There is no criticism of this in the Decision. Most property owners must rely on experts on such matters.

The undisputed evidence is that Mr. Crosby hired two different tree removal companies to advise him whether there were any protected trees in the area of his small residential hillside lot where he plans to build a home for himself. As detailed below, both companies did a site visit and told Mr. Crosby that there were no protected trees in the area he wanted cleared.

(a) Mr. Crosby’s emails with Think Green Tree Care, Inc. are Exhibit C to Exhibit 12 presented to the Hearing Examiner.

In clarifying the scope of work, Mr. Crosby’s email to the contractor states, “N.B Of course, do not remove the oak trees or any other protected trees on the

lot.” [Emphasis in the original email.] Mr. Crosby provided the tree company with the floor plan of his home, and a map provided by his home planner that noted the location of trees on the property. The map did not identify any of the trees by species, except for some oak trees. Mr. Crosby was invoiced \$3200 by this company. [Exhibit 12.]

The notation “N.B” is a British notation commonly used to indicate that special attention should be particularly paid to something; and stands for the Latin “nota bene.” Mr. Crosby was born and raised in England.

(b) Mr. Crosby’s email and contract with California Tree Design are Exhibits J and K to Exhibit 12.

Mr. Crosby’s email and contract with the second contractor, California Tree Design, both stated, “California Tree Design will not remove the oak trees or any other protected trees on the lot.” [Emphasis in the email, not in the contract.] [Exhibit 12.] Mr. Crosby personally met with the California Tree Design arborist on his property prior to sending those emails and entering into that contact, as detailed in his statement, [Exhibit 12].

2. A property owner is not required to have a tree report prepared or apply for a protected tree permit to remove unprotected trees.

The Hearing Examiner noted that there was no record of Misha Crosby ever applying for a Tree Removal Permit with the City of Los Angeles. That is consistent with Mr. Crosby’s understanding that the area to be cleared did not include any protected trees. As Mr. Crosby was assured by two companies that they would not be removing protected trees, there was no need for him to apply for a permit; since no protected trees were to be removed.

There was no evidence presented that Mr. Crosby knew the tree removal companies had misinformed him. As such, he had every right to rely on their opinions. In faith, had the ISA certified arborist prepared a tree report that stated

the same thing, i.e. that there were no protected trees in the area he wanted to have cleared, Mr. Crosby would not have needed to file that with the City before proceeding with clearing his land of unprotected trees and other growth. Only when protected trees are to be removed is a permit required.

It is an abuse of discretion to penalize Mr. Crosby for not requesting a protected tree removal permit when he did not know any protected trees were to be removed.

3. The two tree removal companies did remove some protected trees, contrary to Mr. Crosby's specific instructions not to remove any protected trees, and without his knowledge or approval.

On June 28, 2023, Think Green Tree Care, Inc., owned and operated by Raymond Salas, cleared some trees and shrubs from the lot. A neighbor, Mr. Jamie Hall, filmed his conversation with Mr. Salas, and told Mr. Salas he was cutting protected black walnuts. The film shows Mr. Salas's surprise, and he stated he thought the tree was another kind of black walnut. The film shows Mr. Crosby arriving, expressing disbelief that any protected trees were being cut. Mr. Hall told Mr. Crosby he needed to hire a certified arborist. Work stopped.

During the following week, Mr. Crosby contacted California Tree Design, and met onsite with one of their certified arborists; showed him the remaining area to be cleared and the unfinished work left over by the first contactor. California Tree Design's certified arborist told Mr. Crosby that there were no protected trees in that area. Mr. Crosby relied on that opinion, and hired them to come to finish the job that had been stopped on June 28. As mentioned above, Mr. Crosby clarified with California Tree Design in both an email and expressly in their contract that no protected trees were to be removed. [Exhibit 12.] California Tree Design came and cleared some trees on July 7, 2023; and unfortunately, in spite of all this, California Tree Design removed at least one and possibly two protected black walnut trees.

4. Upon receiving the City's notice on July 25, 2023, Mr. Crosby hired his own arborist, Mr. Kelly Lewis, to prepare a protected tree report, who concluded protected trees were removed.

The evidence is that on July 25, 2023, Mr. Crosby received the written notice dated July 14, 2023 in the mail from Mr. Ramirez of the Department, stating that the Department had determined that protected trees had been removed from his property. [Exhibit 12.] On July 27, 2023, Mr. Crosby contacted Mr. Ramirez by email, requesting time to further respond, and advised he was seeking to hire the required tree expert. [Exhibit 19, Work Information.]

On July 29, 2023, Mr. Crosby contacted and then hired Kelly Lewis, a Registered Consulting Arborist, who prepared a protected tree report, which was submitted to the Hearing Examiner, though it does not appear to be listed among the Decision's list of Exhibits.

Mr. Lewis noted there are five protected trees on the property now: three (3) Coast Live Oaks, one (1) Mexican Elderberry, and one (1) Southern California Black Walnut. The live oaks appear on the map Mr. Crosby gave to the contractors.

Mr. Lewis found 18 stumps on the property, and that eight (8) were Southern Black Walnut stumps. He also concluded that three (3) of the black walnuts removed were definitely of protected size; one (1) was likely of protected size; for two (2) the size health could not be reasonably determined whether they were protected or not; and two (2) were not of protected size.

Therefore, Mr. Crosby agrees that protected trees were removed by the two contractors, without a permit; and the contractors thereby violated LAMC § 46.02.

5. No trees of any kind were removed after July 7, 2023.

The Decision made the following Findings of Fact:

"On June 28, 2023, Misha Crosby had been filmed by Jamie Hall, a witness who observed the Arborists while they were removing four protected trees (Exhibit

8 – Three Black Walnut and one Mexican Elderberry). On July 7, 2023, Arborists continued to remove two Black Walnut trees. *Misha Crosby received a Notice to attend an Administrative Hearing on August 25th, 2023 regarding the unauthorized removal of protected trees on July 7th, 2023. After receiving the Notice, an additional two protected Black Walnut trees were removed by Arborists on July 27th, 2023 without the City of Los Angeles authorization.*” [Emphasis added.]

The italicized portion above is entirely incorrect. There is no evidence that Misha Crosby received any notice from the City on July 7. As noted above, Mr. Crosby received the City’s notice in the mail on July 25, and responded by email on July 27. And, more importantly, there is no evidence that additional trees were removed after Mr. Crosby received any notice from the City. No trees were removed on July 27, 2023. In fact, no trees were removed after July 7, 2023. These factual errors indicate the Hearing Examiner was confused when he based the Decision on the erroneous factual findings that Mr. Crosby had proceeded with tree removal on July 27, 2023 after being contacted by the City.

6. The Decision misstates the allegations presented by UFD.

In the “Specifications of the Allegations,” the Decision erroneously states “the Department alleges the property owner at 8461 Grandview Dr., Los Angeles, CA hired three Arborists on three different occasions to remove several protected trees and shrubs from this property on 6/28/23, 7/7/23 and 7/27/23 without authorization.” The allegation from the Department was only that trees were removed on 6/28/23 and 7/7/23, which Misha Crosby admits and does not dispute. There was no allegation that any trees were removed on 7/27/23.

Mr. Crosby hired Mr. Lewis shortly after July 27, but Mr. Lewis did not oversee any tree removals or other work on the property.

These serious misstatements of the record undermine any presumption of correctness an administrative finding might otherwise be afforded.

7. The Decision misstates that a prior building permit was denied.

The Decision incorrectly states: “Deputy City Attorney Adena Hopenstand presented the history of the last Owner who had applied for a building permit, which was denied back in 2018.” It then follows this erroneous finding of fact with the conclusion that “Misha Crosby was aware that developing on this property was not viable without the removal of these protected trees.” There is no evidence of any prior building permit ever being denied. There is no evidence to support the conclusion that Mr. Crosby was aware of this prior permit, and therefore was “aware” of the need to remove protected trees to develop the property.

The only evidence the UFD submitted of anything resembling a prior building permit request by a previous owner was an “Application For A Tree Removal Permit” filed by Patel Sachin of 360 Capital Ventures, Inc., submitted back in 2018 to remove two protected black walnuts of fair to poor condition; which apparently was never granted or denied. [Exhibit 9 and 19.] The Application included a “Protected Tree Report” prepared in March 2018 by Lisa Smith, which identified two protected black walnuts on the site in the footprint of Mr. Sachin’s proposed home. [Exhibit 9.] There was no evidence submitted that the Application was ever denied.

Moreover, there is no evidence that Mr. Crosby ever saw or was in any way aware of the Application For A Tree Removal Permit, much less the included tree report. Mr. Crosby did not purchase the property from Mr. Sachin of 360 Capital Ventures, but from Robert L. Gopen, Trustee of the Robert L. Gopen Trust in August 2021. [Exhibit 4.] There is no evidence Mr. Crosby had ever talked with or had any communication with Mr. Sachin.

8. There is no other evidence to support the Decision’s conclusion that “Misha Crosby was aware that developing on this property was not viable without the removal of these protected trees.”

The 2018 Application for a Tree Removal Permit and the “Protected Tree Report” filed with it were unknown to Mr. Crosby, and therefore do not support the finding that Mr. Crosby was “aware” that the “removal of these protected trees” was required to develop the property. There is no other evidence to support this finding; it is erroneous and contrary to the preponderance of the evidence.

The undisputed evidence is that Misha Crosby hired two different sets of tree specialists, and both met with Misha Crosby on the property, and when shown what areas Misha was interested in having cleared, told Misha unequivocally that no protected trees were in those areas. What is more, Misha Crosby confirmed with both tree specialists that they would not cut any protected trees, in writing, acknowledged by both tree companies. There is no evidence that Misha Crosby had any intent to remove any protected trees.

9. There is insufficient evidence to support the Decision to not allow Mr. Crosby to apply for building permits for four years.

As part of his findings: “The Hearing Examiner determined that the Property Owner [Misha Crosby] attempted to utilize tree removal companies to verify that the tree used to be removed were in fact not California protect trees.” However, in assessing a four-year moratorium of building permits, the Hearing Officer essentially ignored his own finding that Mr. Crosby relied on experts to determine whether the trees to be removed were protected or not.

10. The Hearing Examiner abused his discretion in not properly weighing the four factors in § 46.06(c).

The Decision found that eight protected trees were removed. This conclusion is questionable, as it based upon the erroneous finding that two protected trees were removed on July 27, 2023, for which there is no evidence.

The number of trees removed is the first of four factors that shall be considered in determining any withholding of building permits under LAMC § 46.06(c), e.g. (1) the number of trees removed or relocated.

The Decision does not discuss the second factor, (2) the size and age of the trees or shrubs removed; and if any such considerations played into the Decision.

More importantly, the Decision does not discuss factors (3) and (4) of LAMC § 46.06(c); i.e (3) the knowledge and intent of the owners of the property with respect to the removal relocation, and (4) prior violations of law with respect to removal.

Mr. Crosby's statement was admitted into evidence [Exhibit 12], and there was no evidence to dispute anything therein. In 2021, Mr. Crosby purchased the Subject Property, a small hillside lot in Laurel Canyon, in order to build a private residence for himself. Mr. Crosby has no experience in building anything, in permitting process, or otherwise. Mr. Crosby is not a developer. Mr. Crosby's building plans were engineered to work around old protected live oaks on his property.

Mr. Crosby submitted to the Hearing Examiner his proposed building plan for his small home, and it is undisputed that it would be necessary to clear some of the lot from vegetation to allow for the building of the home. It is also undisputed that the building plan was designed to avoid all known protected trees, specifically several live oak trees. [Exhibit 12.]

The report of Kelly Lewis was admitted into evidence, which found that the three Coastal Live Oaks are still on the property; which Mr. Crosby's house plan works around. The great weight and preponderance of the evidence is that Mr. Crosby did not intend his contractors to remove protected trees; and any such removals were contrary to his written instructions to the contractors.

A proper weighing of the four factors set forth in LAMC § 46.06(c) should result in no penalty to Mr. Crosby, as he is not the person who removed the protected trees without a permit.

11. Due Process concerns about the false and defamatory emails sent to multiple City officials must be addressed.

(a) Emails from “neighbors”

This case is marred by the introduction into evidence, without prior notice to Misha Crosby, of fourteen (14) emails from “neighbors” which falsely accused Mr. Crosby of intentionally and flagrantly defying LAMC law and removing protected trees knowingly; all of which were also sent to eighteen (18) City officials.

[Exhibit 16; a fifteenth email as sent by Sarah Hayes solely to Ms. Aura Garcia.]

The emails were sent to all five Commissioners of the Board of Public Works; Aura Garcia, Teresa Villegas, Mike Davis, Vahid Khorsand, and Susana Reyes. The emails include a false report to City officials, and none of the authors of any of those emails ever contacted Misha Crosby to inquire about the truth of their allegations. None of the emails state any basis for the false accusations against Mr. Crosby they contain. The false accusations are outlined in detail in Mr. Monroe’s email and letter of October 5, 2023 to the City officials who received those emails, which are incorporated herein by reference. Mr. Monroe’s email and letter attaches a copy of [Exhibit 16], which includes a copy of all these emails.

Misha Crosby was only made aware of those emails and their false contents when they were presented by the UFD at the hearing on August 25, 2023. Though Mr. Crosby objected to the introduction of those hearsay statements, the Hearing Officer stated he would admit them and that he could consider hearsay.

None of the writers of these emails ever contacted Mr. Crosby or inquired of him about the allegations contained therein.

(b) Ex Parte Communications to Board members regarding an appeal are improper.

These *ex parte* communications to the Board are improper. They present a due process question; whether it is possible for Mr. Crosby to have a fair hearing on appeal after the Board members have all received these multiple emails? The reports to the Board members were not necessary to request enforcement action: any such requests would properly be sent to UFD officials, such as Mr. Ramirez.

The effect of these *ex parte* communications cannot be underestimated. They probably have the effect of prejudicing the members of the Board of Public Works, who will be deciding this appeal, against Mr. Crosby. This was a calculated attempt to “poison the well” by presenting false information about Mr. Crosby, while giving him no opportunity to respond, since he was not advised of these communications until the September 27, 2023 hearing. Attorney Monroe’s response of October 2, 2023, discussed below, came long after the seeds of deceit had been planted.

These emails were sent not only to the Board members, but also to Bryan Ramirez, who presented the case to the Hearing Examiner. Mr. Ramirez’s bias was exhibited when, during the hearing, he made the completely unsubstantiated and false accusation that he believed that Mr. Crosby had a tree report prepared per “UFD’s tree removal application requirements” that he gave to the contractor, and argued that Mr. Crosby gave the report designating protected trees to be removed by the contractor, knowing they were protected. [See Exhibit 8, page 5, with Mr. Ramirez’s handwritten notes.]

This accusation is a complete fabrication, and why a city official would fabricate such a concoction, without even speaking with Mr. Crosby, is evidence to the bias generated by the false “public outrage.” This contention was completely dispelled at the hearing, as Mr. Crosby offered [Exhibit 21], which showed the map

Mr. Ramirez based his false accusation upon to be a map highlighted by Mr. Crosby's home designer. Mr. Kelly Lewis also testified that the map was not part of a tree report.

Mr. Crosby is requesting copies from the City of all records of correspondence or communications between City officials, Mr. Hall, and any others mentioning Mr. Crosby or this property since July 7, 2023. Mr. Crosby reserves the right to supplement this argument upon receipt of this additional information.

(c) Email and video submitted by Jamie Hall

A video filmed on June 28, 2023 by Jamie Hall, an activist attorney, was presented by the Department and played at the hearing. In that video, Mr. Hall made false statements about Mr. Crosby and the extent of work done on the property. Mr. Hall sent an email with a link to the video to four (4) City officials, including Mr. Ramirez, on July 7, 2023. [Exhibit 18.]

(d) Attorney Monroe notified City officials of the false reports.

On October 5, 2023, Attorney David L. Monroe sent a letter via email to all eighteen (18) City officials who received the false information mentioned above. Mr. Monroe advises that he has not received any response from any of the City officials, and he does not know if any investigation into this conduct has taken place. Mr. Monroe's email, letter, Exhibits attached thereto, and the argument contained therein, which are being forwarded with this Notice of Appeal in a pdf designated "Monroe Email and Letter of 10-5-2023," are incorporated into this Notice of Appeal by reference.

(12) Any moratorium on building permits should begin to run from July 7, 2023.

Finally, the Decision states that the four year moratorium would begin on the date of the Decision, October 27, 2023, which conflicts with LAMC § 46.06(a),

which provides that any moratorium "period shall come on the date the Bureau first becomes aware of the removal of the tree." That date would be July 7, 2023.

CONCLUSION

Misha Crosby requests that the Decision be reversed, and that appropriate replacement trees be determined, so that he may proceed with building his home.

Dated: November 6, 2023

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Misha Crosby

Misha Crosby
1260 N. Flores St., #1
West Hollywood, CA. 90069
310-717-9973
mishacrosby@yahoo.co.uk

Los Angeles CA 90046



Bryan Ramirez <bryan.ramirez@lacity.org>

ILLEGAL REMOVAL OF PROTECTED TREES AT 8461 GRANDVIEW DR.

1 message

Alan Kishbaugh <alankishbaugh@gmail.com>

Fri, Jul 28, 2023 at 10:48 AM

To: aura.garcia@lacity.org, teresa.villegas@lacity.org, mike.davis@lacity.org, vahid.khorsand@lacity.org, susana.reyes@lacity.org, fernando.campos@lacity.org, david.miranda@lacity.org, hector.banuelos@lacity.org, stephen.duprey@lacity.org, bryan.ramirez@lacity.org, Hydee.FeldsteinSoto@lacity.org, kevin.james@lacity.org, ted.jordan@lacity.org, dennis.kong@lacity.org, nithya.raman@lacity.org, emma.taylor@lacity.org, Mehmet Berker <mehmet.berker@lacity.org>, mashael.majid@lacity.org, angelenos4trees@gmail.com, trees@ncsa.la, diana@ittakesagarden.com, cmaddren@gmail.com, Jamie Hall <jhall@laurelcanyon.org>, tlongcore@babcn.org, mmann@babcn.org, Robert Schlesinger <rschlesinger@babcn.org>, nminer@babcn.org, ssavage@babcn.org, Paul Edelman <edelman@smmc.ca.gov>, info@kirkwoodbowlfoundation.org

Please apply all appropriate sanctions for this illegal action. Black Walnuts are protected and in short supply as they generally only grow on the northern slopes of the Santa Monica Mountains. Fines and long-term prohibition of building permits are more than appropriate for this builder's illegal cutting on this site. Thank you

Alan Kishbaugh



Bryan Ramirez <bryan.ramirez@lacity.org>

ILLEGAL REMOVAL OF PROTECTED TREES AT 8461 GRANDVIEW DR.

1 message

Karolynne Gee <karolynnegee@sbcglobal.net>

Fri, Jul 28, 2023 at 5:17 AM

Reply-To: Karolynne Gee <karolynnegee@sbcglobal.net>

To: "aura.garcia@lacity.org" <aura.garcia@lacity.org>, "teresa.villegas@lacity.org" <teresa.villegas@lacity.org>, "mike.davis@lacity.org" <mike.davis@lacity.org>, "vahid.khorsand@lacity.org" <vahid.khorsand@lacity.org>, "susana.reyes@lacity.org" <susana.reyes@lacity.org>, "fernando.campos@lacity.org" <fernando.campos@lacity.org>, "david.miranda@lacity.org" <david.miranda@lacity.org>, "hector.banuelos@lacity.org" <hector.banuelos@lacity.org>, "stephen.duprey@lacity.org" <stephen.duprey@lacity.org>, "bryan.ramirez@lacity.org" <bryan.ramirez@lacity.org>, "Hydee.FeldsteinSoto@lacity.org" <hydee.feldsteinsoto@lacity.org>, "kevin.james@lacity.org" <kevin.james@lacity.org>, "ted.jordan@lacity.org" <ted.jordan@lacity.org>, "dennis.kong@lacity.org" <dennis.kong@lacity.org>, "nithya.raman@lacity.org" <nithya.raman@lacity.org>, "emma.taylor@lacity.org" <emma.taylor@lacity.org>, "mehmet.berker@lacity.org" <mehmet.berker@lacity.org>, "mashael.majid@lacity.org" <mashaef.majid@lacity.org>, "angelenos4trees@gmail.com" <angelenos4trees@gmail.com>, "trees@ncsa.la" <trees@ncsa.la>, "diana@ittakesagarden.com" <diana@ittakesagarden.com>, "cmaddren@gmail.com" <cmaddren@gmail.com>, "jhall@laurelcanyon.org" <jhall@laurelcanyon.org>, "tlongcore@babnc.org" <tlongcore@babnc.org>, "mmann@babnc.org" <mmann@babnc.org>, "rschlesinger@babnc.org" <rschlesinger@babnc.org>, "nminer@babnc.org" <nminer@babnc.org>, "ssavage@babnc.org" <ssavage@babnc.org>, "edelman@smmc.ca.gov" <edelman@smmc.ca.gov>

Dear City Official,

As a resident of the Kirkwood Bowl in Laurel Canyon, I am outraged about the illegal removal of multiple protected trees on the property at 8461 Grandview Drive without required permits per the California Protected Tree Ordinance. He has basically stripped the entire lot of all vegetation.

The property owner took it upon himself to remove numerous California Black Walnut trees on this lot on June 28, 2023. He was caught, notified and asked to stop immediately. Although he did desist on that day, he returned on July 7 using a different tree removal service and defiantly removed more California Black Walnut trees. The lot is now completely barren of all vegetation, and he has not yet even applied for a building permit. The previous owner encountered many obstacles when attempting to develop this lot and so will the present owner. This was also the site of a mudslide several years ago.

As a resident of Laurel Canyon, we are requesting for any and every City official and representative to hold this individual accountable and demand strong enforcement as defined in the California Protected Tree Ordinance to include but not limited to the withholding of building permits for 10 years. Additional fines and penalties are also certainly appropriate in this case.

Our green spaces in Laurel Canyon are enjoyed by many residents and visitors every day. We are outraged that the damage done on this property, to our community and our environment cannot be repaired for many decades to come. We demand the punishment be applied to the full extent as demanded in the California Protected Tree Ordinance.

Thank you for your consideration in this case.

Respectfully,

Karolynne A. Gee
8223 Yucca Trail
Los Angeles, CA 90046-1953

A



Bryan Ramirez <bryan.ramirez@lacity.org>

ILLEGAL REMOVAL OF PROTECTED TREES AT 8461 GRANDVIEW DR.

1 message

ann song <emailasong@yahoo.com>

Thu, Jul 27, 2023 at 5:28 PM

To: "aura.garcia@lacity.org" <aura.garcia@lacity.org>, "teresa.villegas@lacity.org" <teresa.villegas@lacity.org>, "mike.davis@lacity.org" <mike.davis@lacity.org>, "vahid.khorsand@lacity.org" <vahid.khorsand@lacity.org>, "susana.reyes@lacity.org" <susana.reyes@lacity.org>, "fernando.campos@lacity.org" <fernando.campos@lacity.org>, "david.miranda@lacity.org" <david.miranda@lacity.org>, "hector.banuelos@lacity.org" <hector.banuelos@lacity.org>, "stephen.duprey@lacity.org" <stephen.duprey@lacity.org>, "bryan.ramirez@lacity.org" <bryan.ramirez@lacity.org>, "Hydee.FeldsteinSoto@lacity.org" <Hydee.FeldsteinSoto@lacity.org>, "kevin.james@lacity.org" <kevin.james@lacity.org>, "ted.jordan@lacity.org" <ted.jordan@lacity.org>, "dennis.kong@lacity.org" <dennis.kong@lacity.org>, "nithya.raman@lacity.org" <nithya.raman@lacity.org>, "emma.taylor@lacity.org" <emma.taylor@lacity.org>, "mehmet.berker@lacity.org" <mehmet.berker@lacity.org>, "mashael.majid@lacity.org" <mashael.majid@lacity.org>, "angelenos4trees@gmail.com" <angelenos4trees@gmail.com>, "trees@ncsa.la" <trees@ncsa.la>, "diana@ittakesagarden.com" <diana@ittakesagarden.com>, "cmaddren@gmail.com" <cmaddren@gmail.com>, "jhall@laurelcanyon.org" <jhall@laurelcanyon.org>, "tlongcore@babcnc.org" <tlongcore@babcnc.org>, "mmann@babcnc.org" <mmann@babcnc.org>, "rschlesinger@babcnc.org" <rschlesinger@babcnc.org>, "nminer@babcnc.org" <nminer@babcnc.org>, "ssavage@babcnc.org" <ssavage@babcnc.org>, "edelman@smmc.ca.gov" <edelman@smmc.ca.gov>, "info@kirkwoodbowlfoundation.org" <info@kirkwoodbowlfoundation.org>

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The property owner took it upon himself to remove numerous California Black Walnut trees on this lot on June 28, 2023. He was caught, notified and asked to stop immediately. Although he did desist on that day, he returned on July 7 using a different tree removal service and defiantly removed more California Black Walnut trees. The lot is now completely barren of all vegetation, and he has not yet even applied for a building permit. The previous owner encountered many obstacles when attempting to develop this lot and so will the present owner. This was also the site of a mudslide several years ago.

As a resident of Laurel Canyon, and the neighbor who owns the property next door, we are requesting for any and every City official and representative to hold this individual accountable and demand strong enforcement as defined in the California Protected Tree Ordinance to include but not limited to the withholding of building permits for 10 years. Additional fines and penalties are also certainly appropriate in this case.

Our green spaces in Laurel Canyon are enjoyed by many residents and visitors every day. We are outraged that the damage done on this property, to our community and our environment cannot be repaired for many decades to come. We demand the punishment be applied to the full extent as demanded in the California Protected Tree Ordinance.

And as the property owner next door, I am aghast and very concerned that he removed the trees in such a manner, without proper permits and more importantly with such a blatant disregard to the warning and disregard in proceeding in a proper manner. I take this disregard and utter disrespect as a signal and indication of how he may proceed in like manner as he tries to build on the property.

Thank you for your consideration in this case.

Ann Song
Owner of 8451 Grand View Drive
LA, CA 90046



Bryan Ramirez <bryan.ramirez@lacity.org>

ILLEGAL REMOVAL OF PROTECTED TREES AT 8461 GRANDVIEW DR

1 message

Jack Ketchian <ketchian@gmail.com>

Fri, Jul 28, 2023 at 12:19 AM

To: aura.garcia@lacity.org, teresa.villegas@lacity.org, mike.davis@lacity.org, vahid.khorsand@lacity.org, susana.reyes@lacity.org, fernando.campos@lacity.org, david.miranda@lacity.org, hector.banuelos@lacity.org, stephen.duprey@lacity.org, bryan.ramirez@lacity.org, Hydee.FeldsteinSoto@lacity.org, kevin.james@lacity.org, ted.jordan@lacity.org, dennis.kong@lacity.org, nithya.raman@lacity.org, emma.taylor@lacity.org, mehmet.berker@lacity.org, mashaef.majid@lacity.org, angelenos4trees@gmail.com, trees@ncsa.la, diana@ittakesagarden.com, cmaddren@gmail.com, jhall@laurelcanyon.org, tlongcore@babnc.org, mmann@babnc.org, rschlesinger@babnc.org, nminer@babnc.org, ssavage@babnc.org, edelman@smmc.ca.gov, info@kirkwoodbowlfoundation.org

Dear City Official,

As a resident of the Kirkwood Bowl in Laurel Canyon, I am outraged about the illegal removal of multiple protected trees on the property at 8461 Grandview Drive without required permits per the California Protected Tree Ordinance. He has basically stripped the entire lot of all vegetation.

Please don't these persons cut the limited number of trees we have to disappear from the neighborhood.

The property owner took it upon himself to remove numerous California Black Walnut trees on this lot on June 28, 2023. He was caught, notified and asked to stop immediately. Although he did desist on that day, he returned on July 7 using a different tree removal service and defiantly removed more California Black Walnut trees. The lot is now completely barren of all vegetation, and he has not yet even applied for a building permit. The previous owner encountered many obstacles when attempting to develop this lot and so will the present owner. This was also the site of a mudslide several years ago.

As a resident of Laurel Canyon, we are requesting for any and every City official and representative to hold this individual accountable and demand strong enforcement as defined in the California Protected Tree Ordinance to include but not limited to the withholding of building permits for 10 years. Additional fines and penalties are also certainly appropriate in this case.

Our green spaces in Laurel Canyon are enjoyed by many residents and visitors every day. We are outraged that the damage done on this property, to our community and our environment cannot be repaired for many decades to come. We demand the punishment be applied to the full extent as demanded in the California Protected Tree Ordinance.

Thank you for your consideration in this case.

Jack Ketchian
8481 Kirkwood Dr



Bryan Ramirez <bryan.ramirez@lacity.org>

ILLEGAL REMOVAL OF PROTECTED TREES AT 8461 GRANDVIEW DR.

1 message

Steffani Gaines <steffanigaines@yahoo.com>

Thu, Jul 27, 2023 at 2:59 PM

To: "aura.garcia@lacity.org" <aura.garcia@lacity.org>, "teresa.villegas@lacity.org" <teresa.villegas@lacity.org>, "mike.davis@lacity.org" <mike.davis@lacity.org>, "vahid.khorsand@lacity.org" <vahid.khorsand@lacity.org>, "susana.reyes@lacity.org" <susana.reyes@lacity.org>, "fernando.campos@lacity.org" <fernando.campos@lacity.org>, "david.miranda@lacity.org" <david.miranda@lacity.org>, "hector.banuelos@lacity.org" <hector.banuelos@lacity.org>, "stephen.duprey@lacity.org" <stephen.duprey@lacity.org>, "bryan.ramirez@lacity.org" <bryan.ramirez@lacity.org>, "Hydee.FeldsteinSoto@lacity.org" <Hydee.FeldsteinSoto@lacity.org>, "kevin.james@lacity.org" <kevin.james@lacity.org>, "ted.jordan@lacity.org" <ted.jordan@lacity.org>, "dennis.kong@lacity.org" <dennis.kong@lacity.org>, "nithya.raman@lacity.org" <nithya.raman@lacity.org>, "emma.taylor@lacity.org" <emma.taylor@lacity.org>, "mehmet.berker@lacity.org" <mehmet.berker@lacity.org>, "mashael.majid@lacity.org" <mashael.majid@lacity.org>, "angelenos4trees@gmail.com" <angelenos4trees@gmail.com>, "trees@ncsa.la" <trees@ncsa.la>, "diana@ittakesagarden.com" <diana@ittakesagarden.com>, "cmaddren@gmail.com" <cmaddren@gmail.com>, "jhall@laurelcanyon.org" <jhall@laurelcanyon.org>, "tlongcore@babcnc.org" <tlongcore@babcnc.org>, "mmann@babcnc.org" <mmann@babcnc.org>, "rschlesinger@babcnc.org" <rschlesinger@babcnc.org>, "nminer@babcnc.org" <nminer@babcnc.org>, "ssavage@babcnc.org" <ssavage@babcnc.org>, "edelman@smmc.ca.gov" <edelman@smmc.ca.gov>, "info@kirkwoodbowlfoundation.org" <info@kirkwoodbowlfoundation.org>

Dear City Official,

As a resident of the Kirkwood Bowl in Laurel Canyon, I am outraged about the illegal removal of multiple protected trees on the property at 8461 Grandview Drive without required permits per the California Protected Tree Ordinance. He has basically stripped the entire lot of all vegetation.

The property owner took it upon himself to remove numerous California Black Walnut trees on this lot on June 28, 2023. He was caught, notified and asked to stop immediately. Although he did desist on that day, he returned on July 7 using a different tree removal service and defiantly removed more California Black Walnut trees. The lot is now completely barren of all vegetation, and he has not yet even applied for a building permit. The previous owner encountered many obstacles when attempting to develop this lot and so will the present owner. This was also the site of a mudslide several years ago.

As a resident of Laurel Canyon, we are requesting for any and every City official and representative to hold this individual accountable and demand strong enforcement as defined in the California Protected Tree Ordinance to include but not limited to the withholding of building permits for 10 years. Additional fines and penalties are also certainly appropriate in this case.

Our green spaces in Laurel Canyon are enjoyed by many residents and visitors every day. We are outraged that the damage done on this property, to our community and our environment cannot be repaired for many decades to come.

We demand the punishment be applied to the full extent as demanded in the California Protected Tree Ordinance.

Thank you for your consideration in this case.

Steffi Gaines

8107 McKim Court LOS Angeles Ca. (0046



Bryan Ramirez <bryan.ramirez@lacity.org>

8461 GRANDVIEW DR. ILLEGAL REMOVAL OF PROTECTED TREES

1 message

David Rolston <gizmola@gmail.com>

Thu, Jul 27, 2023 at 2:32 PM

To: aura.garcia@lacity.org, teresa.villegas@lacity.org, mike.davis@lacity.org, vahid.khorsand@lacity.org, susana.reyes@lacity.org, fernando.campos@lacity.org, david.miranda@lacity.org, hector.banuelos@lacity.org, stephen.duprey@lacity.org, bryan.ramirez@lacity.org, Hydee.FeldsteinSoto@lacity.org, kevin.james@lacity.org, ted.jordan@lacity.org, dennis.kong@lacity.org, nithya.raman@lacity.org, emma.taylor@lacity.org, mehmet.berker@lacity.org, mashael.majid@lacity.org, angelenos4trees@gmail.com, trees@ncsa.la, diana@ittakesagarden.com, cmaddren@gmail.com, jhall@laurelcanyon.org, tlongcore@babcnc.org, mmann@babcnc.org, rschlesinger@babcnc.org, nminer@babcnc.org, ssavage@babcnc.org, edelman@smmc.ca.gov, info@kirkwoodbowlfoundation.org

Dear City Official,

As a resident of Grand View Drive in Laurel Canyon, I am outraged about the illegal removal of multiple protected trees on the property at 8461 Grandview Drive without required permits per the California Protected Tree Ordinance.

Once again, an absentee owner with designs to build a home on a sheer canyon slope, has begun an effort by choosing to strip the lot of all vegetation. The location of this site includes a section of Substandard roadway, where it is not wide enough for 2 cars to pass, and just below Cole Crest, where expensive efforts have been underway to reinforce the crumbling infrastructure.

This lot that has been empty since a fire in 1979 burned numerous homes in the Kirkwood Bowl. Given the passage of the hillside ordinance a number of parties have purchased similar lots, here and on paper streets, and inevitably, attempts are made to build outsized homes requesting variance of the ordinance and existing laws.

The property owner took it upon himself to remove numerous California Black Walnut trees on this lot on June 28, 2023. He was caught, notified and asked to stop immediately. Although he did desist on that day, he returned on July 7 using a different tree removal service and defiantly removed more California Black Walnut trees. The lot is now completely barren of all vegetation, and he has not yet even applied for a building permit. The previous owner encountered many obstacles when attempting to develop this lot and so will the present owner. This was also the site of a mudslide several years ago.

As residents of Grand View Drive, we are requesting for any and every City official and representative to hold this individual accountable and demand strong enforcement as defined in the California Protected Tree Ordinance to include but not limited to the withholding of building permits for 10 years. Additional fines and penalties are also certainly appropriate in this case.

We are outraged that the damage done on this property, to our community and our environment cannot be repaired for many decades to come. We demand the punishment be applied to the full extent as demanded in the California Protected Tree Ordinance.

Thank you for your consideration in this case.

Respectfully,

David & Tracy Rolston
8311 Grand View Dr.



Bryan Ramirez <bryan.ramirez@lacity.org>

Illegal Removal of Protected Trees at 8461 Grandview Dr , LA

1 message

Blanche D'Souza <neighborblanche@gmail.com>

Tue, Jul 25, 2023 at 3:07 PM

To: Nithya Raman <nithya@nithyaforthecity.com>, Blanche D'Souza <neighborblanche@gmail.com>

Cc: aura.garcia@lacity.org, teresa.villegas@lacity.org, mike.davis@lacity.org, vahid.khorsand@lacity.org, susana.reyes@lacity.org, fernando.campos@lacity.org, david.miranda@lacity.org, hector.banuelos@lacity.org, stephen.duprey@lacity.org, bryan.ramirez@lacity.org, Hydee.FeldsteinSoto@lacity.org, kevin.james@lacity.org, ted.jordan@lacity.org, dennis.kong@lacity.org, emma.taylor@lacity.org, mehmet.berker@lacity.org, mashael.majid@lacity.org, angelenos4trees@gmail.com, trees@ncsa.la, diana@ittakesagarden.com, cmaddren@gmail.com, Jamie Hall <jhall@laurelcanyon.org>, tlongcore@babcnc.org, mmann@babcnc.org, rschlesinger@babcnc.org, nminer@babcnc.org, ssavage@babcnc.org, edelman@smmc.ca.gov

Dear City Official,

As a resident of the Kirkwood Bowl in Laurel Canyon, I am outraged about the illegal removal of multiple protected trees on the property at 8461 Grandview Drive without required permits per the California Protected Tree Ordinance. He has basically stripped the entire lot of vegetation.

On June 28, 2023, the property owner took it upon himself to remove numerous California Black Walnut and Mexican Elderberry trees on this lot . He was caught, notified and asked to stop immediately. Although he did desist on that day, he returned on July 7 using a different tree removal service and defiantly removed more California Black Walnut trees. The lot is now completely barren of all vegetation, and he has not yet even applied for a building permit. The previous owner encountered many obstacles when attempting to develop this lot and so will the present owner.

As a resident of Laurel Canyon, we are requesting for any and every City official and representative to hold this individual accountable and demand strong enforcement as defined in the California Protected Tree Ordinance to include but not limited to the withholding of building permits for 10 years. Additional fines and penalties are also certainly appropriate in this case.

Our green spaces in Laurel Canyon are enjoyed by many residents and visitors every day. We are outraged that the damage done on this property, to our community and our environment cannot be repaired for many decades to come. We demand the punishment be applied to the full extent as demanded in the California Protected Tree Ordinance.

Thank you for your consideration in this case.

Your Name Blanche D. Juza



Bryan Ramirez <bryan.ramirez@lacity.org>

8461 GrandView Drive, LA, 90046 / Illegal Tree Removal / Gross Violation of California Protected Tree Ordinance

1 message

Aidan O'Brien <apobr@yahoo.com>

Tue, Jul 25, 2023 at 8:42 AM

Reply-To: Aidan O'Brien <apobr@yahoo.com>

To: "aura.garcia@lacity.org" <aura.garcia@lacity.org>, "teresa.villegas@lacity.org" <teresa.villegas@lacity.org>, "mike.davis@lacity.org" <mike.davis@lacity.org>, "vahid.khorsand@lacity.org" <vahid.khorsand@lacity.org>, "susana.reyes@lacity.org" <susana.reyes@lacity.org>, "fernando.campos@lacity.org" <fernando.campos@lacity.org>, "david.miranda@lacity.org" <david.miranda@lacity.org>, "hector.banuelos@lacity.org" <hector.banuelos@lacity.org>, "stephen.duprey@lacity.org" <stephen.duprey@lacity.org>, "bryan.ramirez@lacity.org" <bryan.ramirez@lacity.org>, "Hydee.FeldsteinSoto@lacity.org" <hydee.feldsteinsoto@lacity.org>, "kevin.james@lacity.org" <kevin.james@lacity.org>, "ted.jordan@lacity.org" <ted.jordan@lacity.org>, "dennis.kong@lacity.org" <dennis.kong@lacity.org>, "nithya.raman@lacity.org" <nithya.raman@lacity.org>, "emma.taylor@lacity.org" <emma.taylor@lacity.org>, "mehmet.berker@lacity.org" <mehmet.berker@lacity.org>, "mashael.majid@lacity.org" <mashael.majid@lacity.org>, "angelenos4trees@gmail.com" <angelenos4trees@gmail.com>, "trees@ncsa.la" <trees@ncsa.la>, "diana@ittakesagarden.com" <diana@ittakesagarden.com>, "cmaddren@gmail.com" <cmaddren@gmail.com>, "jhall@laurelcanyon.org" <jhall@laurelcanyon.org>, "tlongcore@babcnc.org" <tlongcore@babcnc.org>, "mmann@babcnc.org" <mmann@babcnc.org>, "rschlesinger@babcnc.org" <rschlesinger@babcnc.org>, "nminer@babcnc.org" <nminer@babcnc.org>, "ssavage@babcnc.org" <ssavage@babcnc.org>, "edelman@smmc.ca.gov" <edelman@smmc.ca.gov>

Cc: Jamie Hall <jamie.hall@channellawgroup.com>, Rikki Poulos <redezine@pacbell.net>

July 25, 2023

I am President of the Kirkwood Bowl Foundation.

<https://www.kirkwoodbowlfoundation.org/>

We are dedicated to Quality of Life in our part of Laurel Canyon.

Over the years we have been strikingly successful at assuring responsible development and ensuring that rules are followed.

The recent cutting of Black Walnut Trees at 8461 GrandView is particularly egregious.

He was advised as to what he was doing was illegal and needed permits.

In spite of this he came back a week later and continued the cutting.

We have the video evidence and credible statements by witnesses.

Clearly this person wants to develop on GrandView a fragile street already under massive stress.

From his behavior he will not follow rules.

It is now time for enforcement and penalties.

At a minimum it requires the withholding of Building Permits for 10 years.

Looking down on the City from Laurel Canyon what stands out is the oasis of green that is Hancock Park.

The City desperately needs the green oasis of Laurel Canyon.

Aidan O'Brien MD
8382 GrandView Drive
Los Angeles
CA 90046-1918

Phone/FAX (323) 650 3655



Bryan Ramirez <bryan.ramirez@lacity.org>

ILLEGAL REMOVAL OF POTECTED TREES AT 8461 GRANDVIEW DR.

1 message

sarah hayes <sehayes7778@gmail.com>

Mon, Jul 24, 2023 at 4:55 PM

To: aura.garcia@lacity.org

Bcc: bryan.ramirez@lacity.org

Dear City Official,

As a resident of the Kirkwood Bowl in Laurel Canyon, I am outraged about the illegal removal of multiple protected trees on the property at 8461 Grandview Drive without required permits per the California Protected Tree Ordinance. He has basically stripped the entire lot of vegetation.

On June 28, 2023, the property owner took it upon himself to remove numerous California Black Walnut and Mexican Elderberry trees on this lot . He was caught, notified and asked to stop immediately. Although he did desist on that day, he returned on July 7 using a different tree removal service and defiantly removed more California Black Walnut trees. The lot is now completely barren of all vegetation, and he has not yet even applied for a building permit. The previous owner encountered many obstacles when attempting to develop this lot and so will the present owner.

As a resident of Laurel Canyon, we are requesting for any and every City official and representative to hold this individual accountable and demand strong enforcement as defined in the California Protected Tree Ordinance to include but not limited to the withholding of building permits for 10 years. Additional fines and penalties are also certainly appropriate in this case.

Our green spaces in Laurel Canyon are enjoyed by many residents and visitors every day. We are outraged that the damage done on this property, to our community and our environment cannot be repaired for many decades to come. We demand the punishment be applied to the full extent as demanded in the California Protected Tree Ordinance.

Thank you for your consideration in this case.

Sarah E. Hayes



Bryan Ramirez <bryan.ramirez@lacity.org>

ILLEGAL REMOVAL OF POTECTED TREES AT 8461 GRANDVIEW DR.

Marilyn Frandsen <marilyn.frandsen@gmail.com>

Sun, Jul 23, 2023 at 4:02 PM

To: aura.garcia@lacity.org, teresa.villegas@lacity.org, mike.davis@lacity.org, vahid.khorsand@lacity.org, susana.reyes@lacity.org, fernando.campos@lacity.org, david.miranda@lacity.org, hector.banuelos@lacity.org, stephen.duprey@lacity.org, bryan.ramirez@lacity.org, Hydee.FeldsteinSoto@lacity.org, kevin.james@lacity.org, ted.jordan@lacity.org, dennis.kong@lacity.org, nithya.raman@lacity.org, emma.taylor@lacity.org, mehmet.berker@lacity.org, mashael.majid@lacity.org, angelenos4trees@gmail.com, trees@ncsa.la, diana@ittakesagarden.com, cmaddren@gmail.com, Jamie Hall <jhall@laurelcanyon.org>, tlongcore@babcnc.org, mmann@babcnc.org, rschlesinger@babcnc.org, rminer@babcnc.org, ssavage@babcnc.org, edelman@smmc.ca.gov

Dear City Official,

As a 76 year old person who grew up in the Kirkwood Bowl in Laurel Canyon, I am outraged about the illegal removal of multiple protected trees on the property at 8461 Grandview Drive without required permits per the California Protected Tree Ordinance. He has basically stripped the entire lot of vegetation.

On June 28, 2023, the property owner took it upon himself to remove numerous California Black Walnut and Mexican Elderberry trees on this lot. He was caught, notified and asked to stop immediately. Although he did desist on that day, he returned on July 7 using a different tree removal service and defiantly removed more California Black Walnut trees. The lot is now completely barren of all vegetation, and he has not yet even applied for a building permit. The previous owner encountered many obstacles when attempting to develop this lot and so will the present owner.

As a resident of Laurel Canyon, we are requesting for any and every City official and representative to hold this individual accountable and demand strong enforcement as defined in the California Protected Tree Ordinance to include but not limited to the withholding of building permits for 10 years. Additional fines and penalties are also certainly appropriate in this case.

Our green spaces in Laurel Canyon are enjoyed by many residents and visitors every day. Our wildlife need the shelter and food these trees proved. We are outraged that the damage done on this property, to our community and our environment cannot be repaired for many decades to come. We demand the punishment be applied to the full extent as demanded in the California Protected Tree Ordinance.

Thank you for your consideration in this case.

Marilyn Frandsen
marilyn.frandsen@gmail.com 213 598-3116



Bryan Ramirez <bryan.ramirez@lacity.org>

ILLEGAL REMOVAL OF PROTECTED TREES ON 8461 GRANDVIEW

1 message

Ann C <amciminera@gmail.com>

Mon, Jul 24, 2023 at 8:55 AM

To: aura.garcia@lacity.org, teresa.villegas@lacity.org, mike.davis@lacity.org, vahid.khorsand@lacity.org, susana.reyes@lacity.org, fernando.campos@lacity.org, david.miranda@lacity.org, hector.banuelos@lacity.org, stephen.duprey@lacity.org, bryan.ramirez@lacity.org, Hydee.FeldsteinSoto@lacity.org, kevin.james@lacity.org, ted.jordan@lacity.org, dennis.kong@lacity.org, nithya.raman@lacity.org, emma.taylor@lacity.org, mehmet.berker@lacity.org, mashael.majid@lacity.org, angelenos4trees@gmail.com, trees@ncsa.la, diana@ittakesagarden.com, cmaddren@gmail.com, jhall@laurelcanyon.org, tlongcore@babnc.org, mmann@babnc.org, rschlesinger@babnc.org, nminer@babnc.org, ssavage@babnc.org, edelman@smmc.ca.gov

Dear City Official,

On or about July 7, I noticed that a lot at 8461 Grand View was being cleared. I assumed it was required maintenance pursuant to the LAFD brush clearance program, however unusual that it would take more than a day to clear and wood chippers would be needed. When I glanced over after the workers finally left, I was shocked to see the lot was completely denuded. I now understand that the owner of the property illegally removed protected California Black Walnut and Mexican Elderberry trees without required permits per the California Protected Tree Ordinance. During, and for about a week afterwards, a hawk kept screeching and was circling the area, I suspect that a hawk nest was also destroyed.

If the owner of this property blatantly defied the city ordinance and, further, continued clearing the lot after being informed to desist work, I strongly urge every City official and representative to hold this individual accountable to the highest degree afforded under the California Protected Tree Ordinance including withholding issuance of building permits for 10 years and levying fines and penalties for such egregious behavior.

Thank you for your consideration in this case.

Ann Ciminera
8335 Grand View Drive



Bryan Ramirez <bryan.ramirez@lacity.org>

ILLEGAL REMOVAL OF PROTECTED TREES @ 8461 GRANDVIEW DR.

1 message

rand sagers <alecdelta@gmail.com>

Mon, Jul 24, 2023 at 12:58 PM

To: aura.garcia@lacity.org, teresa.villegas@lacity.org, mike.davis@lacity.org, vahid.khorsand@lacity.org, susana.reyes@lacity.org, fernando.campos@lacity.org, david.miranda@lacity.org, hector.banuelos@lacity.org, stephen.duprey@lacity.org, bryan.ramirez@lacity.org, Hydee.FeldsteinSoto@lacity.org, kevin.james@lacity.org, ted.jordan@lacity.org, dennis.kong@lacity.org, nithya.raman@lacity.org, emma.taylor@lacity.org, mehmet.berker@lacity.org, mashael.majid@lacity.org, angelenos4trees@gmail.com, trees@ncsa.la, diana@ittakesagarden.com, cmadden@gmail.com, jhall@laurelcanyon.org, tlongcore@babcnc.org, mmann@babcnc.org, rschlesinger@babcnc.org, nminer@babcnc.org, ssavage@babcnc.org, edelman@smmc.ca.gov, info@kirkwoodbowlfoundation.org

Dear City Officials, et al

As a 26 year resident of the Kirkwood Bowl in Laurel Canyon, I am OUTRAGED about the illegal removal of multiple protected trees on the property at 8461 Grandview Drive without required permits per the California Protected Tree Ordinance. He has stripped the entire lot of vegetation.

On June 28, 2023, the property owner took it upon himself to remove numerous California Black Walnut and Mexican Elderberry trees on this lot . He was caught, notified and asked to stop immediately. Although he did desist on that day, he returned on July 7 using a different tree removal service and defiantly removed more California Black Walnut trees. The lot is now completely barren of all vegetation, and he has not yet even applied for a building permit. The previous owner encountered many obstacles when attempting to develop this lot and so will the present owner.

As a resident of Laurel Canyon, we are requesting for any and every City official and representative to hold this individual ACCOUNTABLE and demand STRONG ENFORCEMENT as defined in the California Protected Tree Ordinance to include but not limited to the withholding of building permits for 10 years. Additional fines and penalties are also certainly appropriate in this case.

Our green spaces in Laurel Canyon are enjoyed by many residents and visitors every day. We are outraged that the damage done on this property, to our community and our environment cannot be repaired for many decades to come. We demand the punishment be applied to the full extent as demanded in the California Protected Tree Ordinance.

Societies collapse if agreed upon rules and regulations are not sufficiently enforced to ensure compliance.

This is YOUR opportunity and responsibility to make sure the California Protected Tree ordinance is stringently enforced.

Thank you for your consideration in this case.

Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

Rand Sagers

8403 Yucca Trail

From: David Monroe d.monroe.law@gmail.com

Subject: Notice Letter to You Concerning False and Defamatory Statements You Have Been Given About Mr. Misha Crosby

Date: October 5, 2023 at 12:06 PM

To: aura.garcia@lacity.org, teresa.villegas@lacity.org, mike.davis@lacity.org, vahid.khorsand@lacity.org, susana.reyes@lacity.org, fernando.campos@lacity.org, david.miranda@lacity.org, hector.banuelos@lacity.org, stephen.duprey@lacity.org, Bryan Ramirez bryan.ramirez@lacity.org, Hydee.FeldsteinSoto@lacity.org, kevin.james@lacity.org, ted.jordan@lacity.org, dennis.kong@lacity.org, nithya.raman@lacity.org, emma.taylor@lacity.org, mehmet.berker@lacity.org, masha.el.majid@lacity.org

Bcc: Misha Crosby mishacrosby@yahoo.co.uk

Dear Los Angeles City Officials:

I am writing to alert you to the fact that each of you on this email have been given false and defamatory information about Mr. Misha Crosby in July of this year. Each of you were sent at least 14 emails that falsely accuse Mr. Crosby of intentionally and purposefully removing protected trees from his residential lot in Laurel Canyon without a permit. You may remember receiving the emails attached as Exhibit 16. The emails also contain other false statements, such as that Mr. Crosby's lot is now "barren of all vegetation," and imply that there are no protected trees left on the lot; both of which are false.

I am an attorney presenting Mr. Misha Crosby. I write to let you know these accusations are completely false, and to advise you of the true facts. Mr. Crosby and I only learned of the existence of these emails last week, on September 27, 2023, at a Bureau of Street Services hearing before a hearing officer pursuant to LAMC § 46.06, when for the first time we were provided copies. Mr. Crosby was not cc'd on any of these emails. None of the writers of these emails ever contacted or questioned Mr. Crosby about the matter. Rather, they have repeated false allegations, and have sent these emails to Members of the Board of Public Works, as well officials in the Bureau of Street Services and others, in a transparent attempt to "poison the well" and defame Mr. Crosby's character and conduct, without the benefit of a fair hearing.

So far, this wrongful scheme seems to have worked. Mr. Bryan Ramirez and Mr. Stephen Duprey of the Bureau of Street Services, who were also recipients of these emails, recommended to the hearing officer last week that Mr. Crosby be denied a building permit for seven (7) years. If the hearing officer so decides, an appeal of that decision would be before some of you; who may have already formed an opinion about this matter, based on the false information you have been given about Mr. Crosby.

We are contacting you as soon as possible to try to limit the damage that has been done, and alert you to the true facts, in hopes you can reopen your mind, and that Mr. Crosby's reputation and character have not been permanently damaged by this unlawful and defamatory conduct.

Please see my attached letter, which goes into more detail about how this wrongful scheme has been carried out.

The fact is Mr. Crosby hired two tree cutter contractors last summer to remove trees on part of his small lot, where he hopes to build a home for himself. Mr. Crosby knew he needed a permit to have any protected trees cut. He met with both contractors on the property and asked them to tell him if there were any protected trees in the area he wanted cleared. Mr. Crosby was aware of some protected trees on the lot, specifically some large oak trees, which his building plans work around and preserve. Both contractors told him there were not any protected trees among they were going to cut. Mr. Crosby believed they knew what they were saying.

What is more, and what you were not told, Mr. Crosby put in writing to both contractors NOT to cut any protected trees; and these writings are attached to this email in Exhibits A and B. And yet, in spite of all this, both contractors cut some protected black walnuts, much to Mr. Crosby's dismay. From two to five protected black walnuts were cut down by these contractors.

I hope you will take the time to look at my attached letter and exhibits, which explains our side of the story in detail. Mr. Crosby had no intent to remove protected trees. Statements to the contrary are false. He is more than happy to plant replacement trees on his lot, and has so advised the hearing officer.

In the meantime, I request that you preserve all evidence of any communications you have received or made to others about this matter.

I also suggest that it is appropriate for the City to launch an investigation into how this has occurred. To me, this is despicable conduct, apparently orchestrated by Mr. Jamie Hall, an attorney who knows what the proper protocol should be here, and I consider his efforts to undermine my client's right to a fair hearing are both unethical and illegal.

I sincerely hope you will be able to view this matter objectively going forward. I am also aware of human nature, and it is sometimes difficult, if not impossible, to restore someone's reputation once disparaging and inflammatory accusations have been made.

I remain open to provide you any additional information, and entertain any questions or comments you may have. Please

feel free to contact me, and please advise me of what action, if any, you take in this regard.

In service,

David Monroe
Attorney for Mr. Misha Crosby

David L. Monroe
ABLE & MONROE, P.C.
9010 Rosewood Avenue
West Hollywood, CA 90048
d.monroe.law@gmail.com
415-559-6829

Notice Letter to
Clty Of...23.pdf

Exhibit A -
Crosby...r 1.pdf

Exhibit B - Email
and Co...py.pdf

Exhibit C - Email
from J...ity.pdf

Exhibit 16.pdf

ABLE & MONROE, P.C.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

**9010 ROSEWOOD AVENUE
WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA. 90048**

TELEPHONE (415) 559-6829

FACSIMILE (713) 225-1215

D.MONROE.LAW@GMAIL.COM

LEVERT J. ABLE
(1910 – 2003)

DAVID L. MONROE
(LICENSED IN TEXAS & CALIFORNIA)

JOHN W. ABLE
(LICENSED IN TEXAS)

October 5, 2023

TO: Aura Garcia, Teresa Villegas, Mike Davis, Vahid Khorsand, Susana Reyes, Fernando Campos, David Miranda, Hector Banuelos, Stephen Duprey, Bryan Ramirez, Hydee Feldstein Soto, Kevin James, Ted Jordan, Dennis Kong, Nithya Raman, Emma Taylor, Mehmet Berker and Mashaël Majid
VIA EMAIL

RE: Defamatory Emails and Information Sent to You Regarding Mr. Misha Crosby and His Residential Lot at 8461 Grand View Drive, Los Angeles, CA

Dear City of Los Angeles Employees and Officials:

I write to alert you to the fact that my client, Mr. Misha Crosby, is the victim of a vicious scheme to defame him to you. You were all sent the same fourteen (14) emails in July 2023, accusing Misha of hiring tree cutters to intentionally, knowingly, unlawfully and “defiantly” remove protected trees on his residential lot in Laurel Canyon without the required permits. This is part of a concerted effort by Mr. Jamie Hall, and others, to incite the City of Los Angeles to wrongfully deny Misha Crosby a building permit to build his personal home on his residential lot in Laurel Canyon. These accusations are patently false, and were made to you for one purpose: to prejudice you against Misha Crosby and harm him in his efforts to build his home.

Specifically, each of you were copied on fourteen (14) emails sent to you by “private citizens” between July 24 and July 30, 2023. These are attached in Exhibit 16. Exhibit 16 also includes one email from Sarah Hayes, that was sent only to Ms. Aura Garcia.

Prior to that, on July 7, 2023, Mr. Jamie Hall, an attorney, sent an email to six (6) of you: Hector Banuelos, Bryan Ramirez, David Miranda, Stephen Duprey, Kevin James, and Hydee Feldstein Soto; which includes a link to a video Mr. Hall made and narrated. That email is attached as Exhibit C. Mr. Hall’s email was copied to several others as well, who in turn may have helped inspire the fourteen (14) later emails. It appears Mr. Hall is the architect of this unlawful scheme to harm Misha and Misha’s reputation.

These emails and the video falsely allege Misha hired one contractor to illegally cut protected trees, who was “caught” by Mr. Jamie Hall on June 28 and stopped; and then Misha hired another contractor to knowingly and “defiantly” “remove the remaining protected trees on July 7, 2023.” The emails and video also state the lot has been “stripped barren of all vegetation,” which is also blatantly false.

I write in hopes it is possible to bring the full and true facts before you, and that you will take appropriate action to right the wrongs that have been done to Misha by this illegal scheme.

The truth is that, in the summer of 2023, Misha did hire two tree cutters to clear his vacant lot of unprotected trees; which does not require a permit or a tree report. Misha knew he needed a permit to cut protected trees, but wanted to remove any unprotected trees at that time. Misha met with both contractors on the lot before either were engaged, and both told him the area he wanted cleared had no protected trees. Misha made clear, to both contractors, both verbally and in writing, that they were not to cut any protected trees. See the highlighted portions of Misha's emails and contracts with the tree cutters, attached as Exhibits A and B. However, to Misha's shock and dismay, both contractors, in spite of all this, still cut protected California Black Walnuts.

In 2021, Misha bought this small lot in Laurel Canyon, zoned R1 HRC, to build a home for himself to live in. It will be his first time owning a residence, rather than paying rent. His designer has developed house plans for a two-level home, which work around a number of large protected oak trees on the lot. Of importance and extreme significance, there remain a number of protected trees on the lot, including large oaks, which Misha's house plans build around and protect.

With the possibility of the passage of a "wildlife ordinance" by LA City Council, Misha's designer suggested Misha go ahead during the summer and clear any unprotected trees before any new ordinance is passed; as the new ordinance might add protections for other trees and make building on this small lot difficult. Misha acted on this advice in hiring the tree cutters.

Since all this happened, Misha has hired Mr. Kelly Lewis, a certified tree expert and former City employee, who has inspected the lot, the tree stumps there, and prepared a tree report. He has determined that, all in all, the two contractors cut a number of different trees on the lot, including scrub oaks and others that are not protected at all. Some of the cut trees were Black Walnuts but were not protected because they were too small. Likewise, an elderberry was cut that also was not of protected size. However, the tree cutters removed at least two (2) Black Walnuts that were of protected size and should not have been cut. Judging from the stumps, Mr. Lewis believes it is possible that as many as five protected Black Walnuts were cut; but he cannot be sure judging from the stumps alone; and google street photographs of the area are inconclusive.

Mr. Lewis has also determined there is more than adequate space to plant replacement trees on Misha's lots. Misha is more than willing to do this. Mr. Lewis's report to the City so states, and designates areas where replacement trees can be planted. This will result in more protected trees on the lot than there were before.

However, it is apparent the false statements sent to the City have damaged Misha and his reputation. At an LAMC § 46.06 hearing last week, on Wednesday, September 27, 2023, Mr. Bryan Ramirez, Street Tree Superintendent of the Urban Forestry Division, in concert with Mr. Stephen Duprey, also of the Urban Forestry Division, asked that the hearing officer determine that Misha be denied a building permit for seven (7) years as punishment for his knowing and intentional destruction of protected trees without a permit. It appears that, as a direct result of these false statements, Misha has now become a "high profile" target.

This recommendation was made at the hearing without prior notice to Misha; and before the City had even seen Mr. Lewis's report. The City did not propose any remediation or planting of replacement trees. The City's request is currently under review by a hearing officer.

It was at that September 27 hearing that Misha and I first learned of these email communications to you and the other City officials, and were first given copies.

The fourteen (14) emails in Exhibit 16 are all addressed to all of you. Many of these emails are nearly identical, indicating someone distributed a "form" and asked others to copy it and email it to this group of City officials. These individuals apparently relied on the truthfulness of someone else in sending their emails. None of them ever spoke with or communicated with Misha about this. They all got their information from someone else. The blatantly false statements in these "form" emails are not expressed as opinion or possible facts; but are stated as unqualified facts. Whether knowingly or unwittingly, all of these individuals have passed on defamatory statements about Misha to you.

An example of one of these "form" emails is the first email in Exhibit 16, dated July 30, 2023, from Heidi Servey; addressed first to aura.garcia@lacity.org, and then to the rest of you. Ms. Servey's email states: "The property owner took it upon himself to remove numerous California Black Walnut trees on this lot on June 28, 2023. He was caught, notified and asked to stop immediately. Although he did desist on that day, he returned on July 7 using a different tree removal service (as the first one expressed that they didn't want to be involved in illegal tree removal, so the owner CLEARLY knew that what he was doing was wrong) and defiantly removed more California Black Walnut trees! The lot is now completely barren of all vegetation, and he has not yet even applied for a building permit." [Emphasis in original.]

The false statements in these emails in Exhibit 16 follow the lines of Mr. Hall's July 7 email, attached as Exhibit C. In the body of his email, Mr. Hall falsely states: "Even though the owner was advised by me on June 28, 2023 that the activity was illegal, he hired ANOTHER tree cutter to remove the remaining protected trees on July 7, 2023." [Emphasis in original.]

Of note, my client, Mr. Misha Crosby, was not copied on any of these emails; though Mr. Hall has Mr. Crosby's email address, and listed it in his email of July 7. See Exhibit C.

Mr. Hall's July 7 email includes a link to a video Mr. Hall made on June 28, where Mr. Hall's narration includes highly inflammatory, false and defamatory statements about Misha and his property. In the video, one of the blatantly false statements is at the beginning of the video. As Mr. Hall is filming a barren portion of the site, Mr. Hall narrates: "This site was full of Southern California Black Walnut and Mexican Elderberry. Today they were removed here at the direction of the property owner."

This statement by Mr. Hall is false and seriously misleading, because most all of the section of land shown at that point in the video had not had any trees on it for many years, as shown in Google Earth photographs. Mr. Hall made the statement knowing it was false; or recklessly, without any knowledge of the truth. That is defamation under California law.

As previously mentioned, Misha had specifically instructed the contractors working at the property, verbally and in writing, not to remove any protected trees. Mr. Hall's statement that protected trees were "removed at the direction of the property owner" is false. Mr. Hall incorrectly made that assumption, and then stated it in his video as a fact. He then distributed that video to others. In fact, the video reveals that Mr. Hall had not even spoken with Misha Crosby at the time he makes that statement.

Mr. Hall's video shows Mr. Hall, at the lot on June 28 and prior to Misha's arrival, telling the contractor, Mr. Raymond Salas, that he had cut protected black walnuts. Mr. Salas says, on the video, that he thought they were another kind of walnut that was not protected. Mr. Hall told him he was wrong. Mr. Salas asked if he was going to get in trouble; and Mr. Hall said that was for the City to decide.

Within minutes, Misha arrived, and Mr. Hall told Misha that the contractor was cutting protected trees. Misha was obviously surprised, and expressed that he thought they were not protected, referring Mr. Hall to the tree specialist, Mr. Salas. Mr. Hall told Mr. Crosby he needed a certified arborist to determine protected trees. This confrontation was also filmed by Mr. Hall.

It should have been apparent to Mr. Hall that Misha did not know what was a protected tree or not. Yet the tone of all of the communications Mr. Hall has inspired to you are not that the tree cutters were mistaken, but that Misha was out intentionally and illegally hiring tree cutters to cut all protected trees on his lot, without a permit; and they did so, stripping his entire lot of all vegetation, including all protected trees.

After Mr. Hall arrived on June 28 and told Misha the contractor was cutting protected trees, Misha had Mr. Salas stop work. The job was not finished. There were still at least two (2) trees and some shrubs remaining in the mapped area Misha had designated to the first contractor.

Per Mr. Hall's instruction, Misha found a company with ISA certified arborists, California Tree Design, Inc., and had them come out to look at the remaining work, specifically two trees. They met with Misha on the lot before he hired them, and they told him the remaining two trees were not protected. Misha signed a contract with them, where they expressly stated they would not remove any protected trees. See emails and contract in Exhibit B.

And, as Misha and I learned last week, it appears this second contractor did cut down a Black Walnut on the property that was of protected size.

Misha Crosby and I support and applaud the appropriate reporting to City officials of illegal tree cutting in Los Angeles. Mr. Hall and his neighbors have every right to advise City officials of their concerns and to petition City officials for appropriate action. We are not complaining that the cutting of protected trees without a permit was reported. We are both disturbed that this has occurred, and that the contractors do not appear to be held responsible by the City. But Misha was not the cause of this – his contractors cut these protected trees without Misha's permission and in spite of his express instructions.

What Mr. Hall and his neighbors do not have the right to do, and no one does, is to make false statements of fact to City officials, accusing someone of unlawful conduct, without just cause or excuse. These statements were not sent to you as matters of concern to be investigated. Mr. Hall and those working with him have made false assumptions, jumped to false conclusions, and then expressed those to you as statements of fact. They have played judge and jury, without doing a proper investigation, and consequently have falsely accused Misha of serious misconduct.

In this case, none of the communications to you advised you that Misha had explicitly told the contractors in writing NOT to cut any protected trees. The contractors have illegally cut protected trees without a permit, contrary to express written instructions from Mr. Crosby.

Indeed, it was imminently reasonable for Misha to rely on licensed tree companies to tell him whether trees are protected or not. Here, the tree cutters did not say they were not sure: they told Misha the trees were not protected, and he had no reason not to believe them. It seems apparent that the licensed tree cutters should know what is a protected tree and what is not. If a property owner hires them and asks them to cut trees that are of a protected size and species, the contractors should refuse, unless the property owner has a permit.

I am asking that an investigation by the City be made of this conduct, which has all the earmarks of a conspiracy to harm Mr. Crosby. Indeed, many of the emails in Exhibit 16, such as Heidi Servey's, brag about preventing the prior owner of this lot from building, and threaten Misha: "The previous owner encountered many obstacles when attempting to develop this lot and so will the present owner." This conduct may have been perpetrated by these people against other citizens of Los Angeles.

As mentioned, Misha and I first learned of these emails at the September 27, 2023 hearing. I was only present that day because Mr. Ramirez had provided Misha with a link to Mr. Hall's video a few days before the hearing. When I saw the video, I contacted Mr. Hall in writing, advising him that the video contained false statements of fact, and asked him to withdraw those false statements. When Mr. Hall refused, and refused to tell me who else he had contacted about this matter, Misha and I were concerned foul play was afoot. So I appeared, and requested the hearing officer to allow me to make a recording of the hearing; which he did. And we were correct.

I am requesting that you preserve all evidence of any communications regarding Mr. Crosby, both written and oral. Please preserve all records of oral communications to and from you about this matter, as well as copies of all written communications you have received and have made regarding Mr. Crosby since June 28, 2023.

I am also asking that, now that you have been advised of the true facts, that you not pass those false statements on to others. If you have sent this false information to others, I ask that you contact them and let them know, at the least, that the information you forwarded to them may be incorrect.

Page 6

By the way, on advice of his advisor, Misha has started Datura Enterprises, LLC to use as a conduit for owning his home. This lot at 8461 Grand View Drive is the only lot Misha and the LLC own or manage. Misha is not a developer.

Please feel free to call me or contact me via email with any questions. I am happy to provide further information to you, upon your request.

Very truly yours,

/s/ David L. Monroe

David L. Monroe
Attorney for Mr. Misha Crosby

Attachments in email accompanying this letter:

Exhibit A
Exhibit B
Exhibit C
Exhibit 16

EXHIBIT A

From: Misha Crosby mishacrosby@yahoo.co.uk
Subject: Tree Removal - Grand View Drive - 06/28
Date: June 23, 2023 at 4:26 PM
To: Thinkgreentreesales@gmail.com

Hey Raymond, as promised here's the floor plan and the area that needs to be cleared of trees.

The first PDF shows the overall area that needs to have the trees removed highlighted in green.

The other PDF shows the proposed home and the trees that need removing marked in red. (there maybe shrubs and smaller trees, etc, that are not shown on the maps but please clear anything in the green highlighted area that they are able to.

Please make sure the right work is done so that the roots will not cause the trees to grow back.

N.B Of course please do not remove the oak trees or any other protected trees on the lot.

Wednesday 28th 8:30am is what I have currently in the calendar.

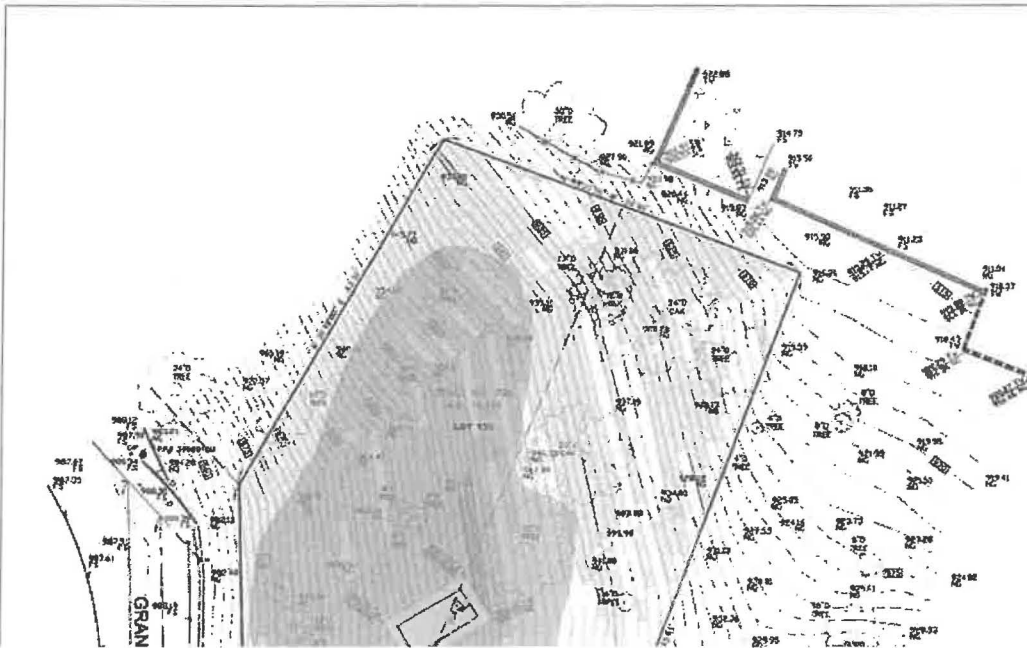
Got an ok back from all three neighbors.

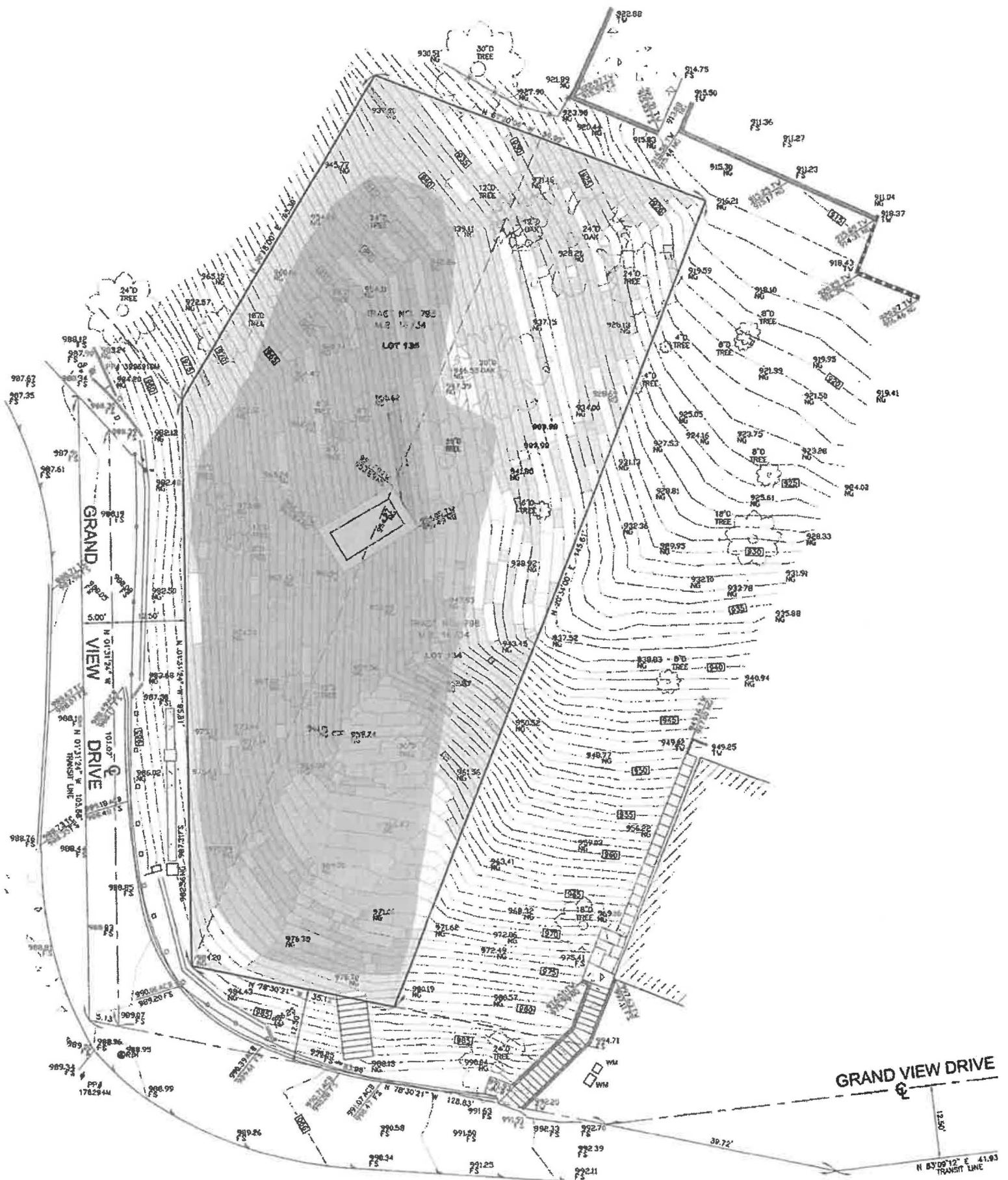
Will discuss the logistics of where we can park on the phone but essentially the dump truck should be ok to be in the driveway of 8451 & 8459 (FYI 8451 will be out of town so please park most of the truck on that side).

The driveway of 8454 we can not block in the main drive but we can use the spot just to the left of the entrance where I parked when I met you if you need to park another truck there if possible.

Please send me through the \$3200 quote back here so I have it.

Cheers!
Misha





GRAND VIEW DRIVE



UPPER LEVEL PLAN
UPPER LEVEL AREA 10,000 SQ. FT.
344 SQ. FT.
ADU.

SITE PLAN at +975.00

AI

ESTIMATE

Prepared For

Datura Enterprises, LLC.
8461 W Grand View Dr
Los Angeles , CA 90046
(310) 717-9973

Think Green Tree Care Inc.

16037 Harvest Moon
La Puente, CA 91744
Phone: (626) 510-5144
Email: thinkgreentreecaresales@gmail.com
Web: thinkgreentreecare.com

Estimate # 838

Date 06/24/2023

[illegible]

Notes:

Think Green Tree Care Inc ("Company") agrees that it is an independent contractor and assumes full responsibility for its employees, agents, and subcontractors. Datura Enterprises LLC ("Owner") shall not be liable for any injuries, damages, claims, or liabilities arising from or related to activities on the Owner's property at 8461 W Grand view Drive. Company shall maintain comprehensive general liability insurance coverage, including workers' compensation insurance, in amounts sufficient to cover any injuries, damages, or claims that may arise during the course of its work. Company shall indemnify and hold Owner harmless from any claims, demands, suits, or actions, including reasonable attorney fees, arising out of or in connection with Company's work.

Think Green Tree Care is not responsible for any underground piping or sprinklers that are broken by stump grinding or underground digging. Also, by signing this document you agree to pay 25% of this contract if by any reason you choose to cancel services.

Datura Enterprises

Signed on: 06/24/2023
Datura Enterprises, LLC.

EXHIBIT B



Misha Crosby

Sent -...yahoo.co.uk

July 6, 2023 at 11:15 PM

Re: Your estimate 3525 from California Tree Design

To: californiatreedesign@gmail.com



Thanks Frankie - please make these updates to the quote and I'll get that back to you.

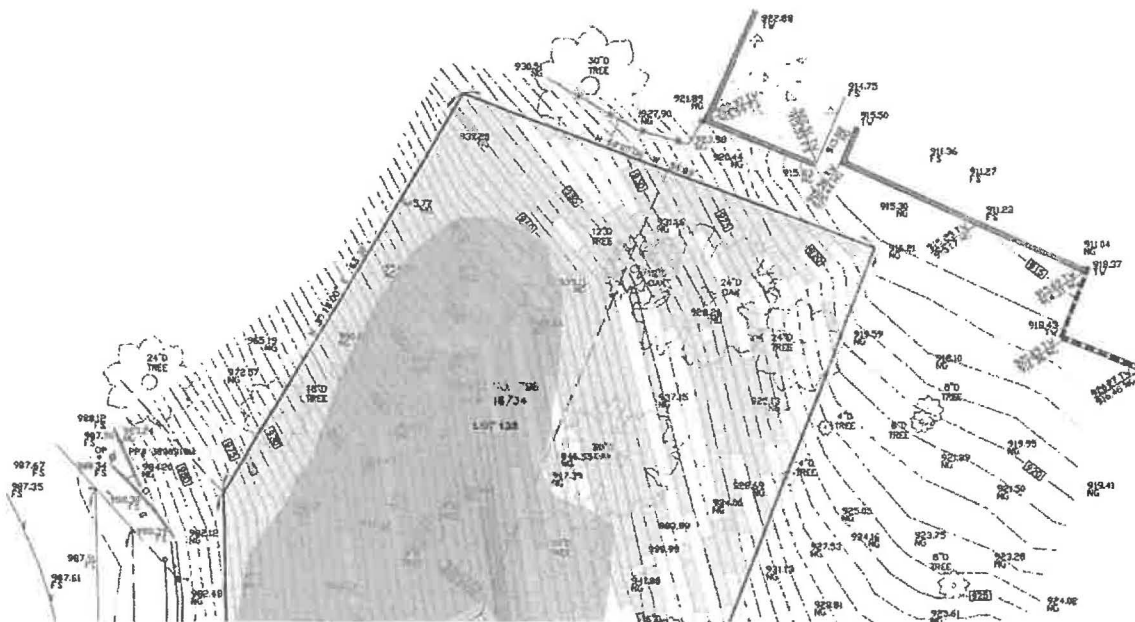
1) Change Misha Crosby to **Datura Enterprises, LLC**.

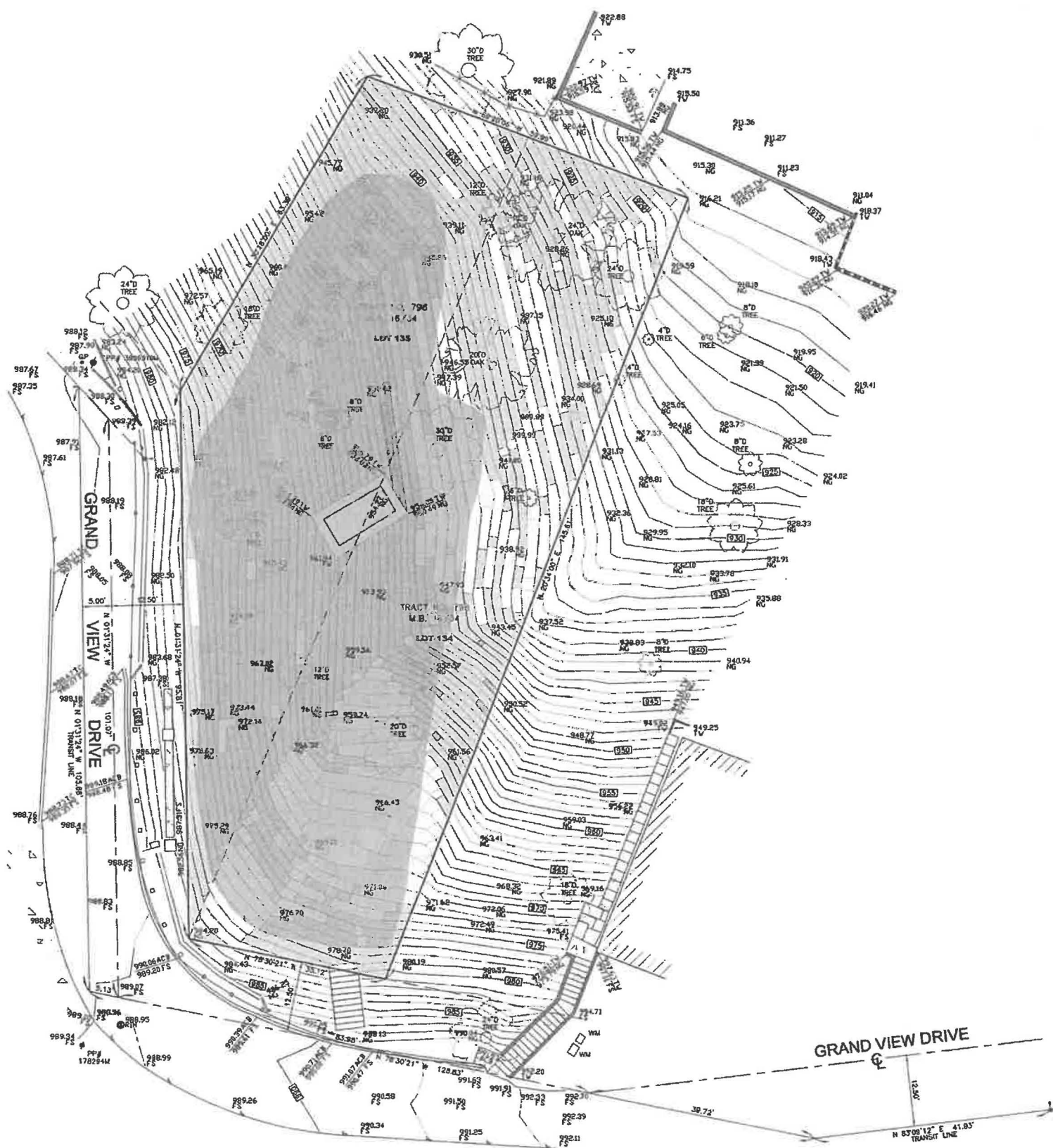
2) Update Description: Removal of selected trees and shrubs in highlighted area per the PDF map provided. Removal of resulting stumps on ground as much as possible or treat stumps to assure no new growth. California Tree Design Inc will not remove the oak trees or any other protected trees on the lot.

2) Add: California Tree Design Inc ("Company") agrees that it is an independent contractor and assumes full responsibility for its employees, agents, and subcontractors. Datura Enterprises LLC and Misha Crosby ("Owner") shall not be liable for any injuries, damages, claims, or liabilities arising from or related to activities on the Owner's property at 8461 W Grand view Drive. Company shall maintain comprehensive general liability insurance coverage, including workers' compensation insurance, in amounts sufficient to cover any injuries, damages, or claims that may arise during the course of its work. Company shall indemnify and hold Owner harmless from any claims, demands, suits, or actions, including reasonable attorney fees, arising out of or in connection with Company's work.

I've attached a map of the lot with the area marked in yellow that is to be cleared.

Cheers,
Misha





ESTIMATE



Prepared For

Datura Enterprises, LLC
8461 W Grand View Dr Los Angeles, CA 90046
United States

California Tree Design

6528 Greenleaf Ave., Suite 112
Whittier, CA 90601
Phone: (562) 253-9577
Email: californiatreedesign@gmail.com
Web: www.catreedesign.com

Estimate # 3525
Date 07/06/2023
Business / Tax # 27-2596057

Description	Total
Tree Pruning	\$1,800.00
1) Removal of selected trees and shrubs in highlighted area per the PDF map provided. Removal of resulting stumps on ground as much as possible or treat stumps to assure no new growth. California Tree Design Inc will not remove the oak trees or any other protected trees on the lot.	
Haul away	\$0.00
1) Haul away and dispose resulting wood, greenwaste, and debris	

Subtotal	\$1,800.00
Total	\$1,800.00

Signed on: 07/07/2023
Datura Enterprises, LLC

EXHIBIT C



Exhibit 18

Bryan Ramirez <bryan.ramirez@lacity.org>

Illegal Removal of Protected Southern California Black Walnuts Trees at 8461 Grand View

Jamie Hall <jamie.hall@channellawgroup.com>

Fri, Jul 7, 2023 at 12:52 PM

To: Hector Banuelos <hector.banuelos@lacity.org>, Bryan Ramirez <bryan.ramirez@lacity.org>, david.miranda@lacity.org, Stephen Duprey <stephen.duprey@lacity.org>

Cc: Rikki Poulos <redazine@pacbell.net>, Kevin James <kevin.james@lacity.org>, Aidan O'Brien <apobr@yahoo.com>, Hydee Feldstein Soto <Hydee.FeldsteinSoto@lacity.org>, Stella Grey <sgrey@babcn.org>, Wendy-Sue Rosen <RosenFree@aol.com>, Paul Edelman <edelman@smmc.ca.gov>, Board LCA <board@laurelcanyon.org>

I am writing on behalf of the Laurel Canyon Association and the Laurel Canyon Land Trust, of which I am the President, to report illegal removal of mature protected Southern California Black Walnut Trees at 8461 Grand View (APN 5556-017-004) on June 28, 2023 and July 7, 2023. I took video and pictures on June 28, 2023. You can watch one of these videos at https://share.icloud.com/photos/031_uwosi3-IN2iDHPdwX2GLw.

The owner is Misha Crosby. His phone number is 310-717-9973. His e-mail is misha@mishacrosby.com.

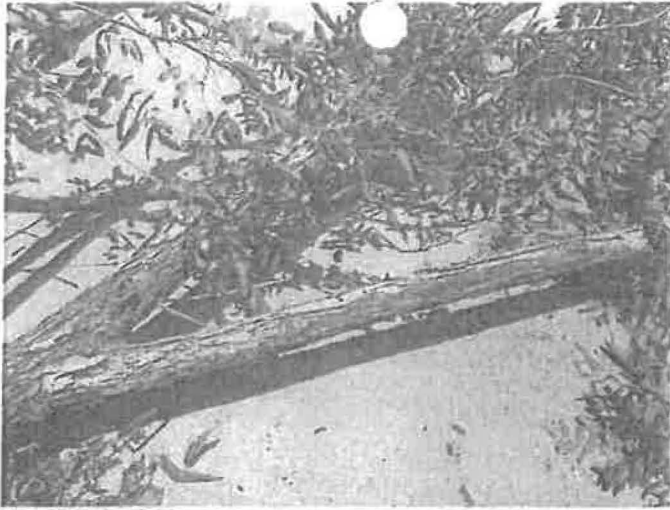
The owner and the tree cutter admitted to not having a tree report or conducting a protected tree report. And there is no question that these are protected black walnut trees. A previous owner tried to develop the lot and submitted an application to remove protected trees (See Service Request No. 1-518418141). This development effort failed and the property was sold to Mr. Crosby.

Even though the owner was advised by me on June 28, 2023 that the activity was illegal, he hired ANOTHER tree cutter to remove the remaining protected trees on July 7, 2023. This activity is currently occurring and we are requesting immediate enforcement action. Can you send a UFD representative to the property right now?

I have cc'd the Laurel Canyon Association Board of Directors as well as representatives from Councilmember Raman, the City Attorney's Office and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy.

This is egregious conduct and we are demanding a formal investigation and the imposition of appropriate penalties, including withholding of building permits for up to 10 years. The owner admitted that he removed the trees in order to facilitate development.





Jamie T. Hall
Channel Law Group, LLP
8383 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 750
Beverly Hills, CA 90211
Main Number: (310) 347-0050
Direct: (310) 982-1760
Fax: (323) 723-3960
Email: jamie.hall@channellawgroup.com
Website: www.channellawgroup.com

* To Book a Meeting with Me Via Zoom Visit <https://calendly.com/channellaw/zoom-meeting-with-jamie>

****NOTICE****

I receive many e-mails on a daily basis and am unable to respond to all of them despite my best efforts. If you have sent me an e-mail that requires my attention and I have not responded, it may have been overlooked. In this situation, I ask that you call my office at 310-982-1760. My receptionist will ensure your e-mail is elevated and a response received. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

****CONFIDENTIAL & PRIVILEGED TRANSMISSION****

The information contained within this e-mail and any attached document(s) is confidential and/or privileged. It is intended solely for the use of the addressee(s) named above. Unauthorized disclosure, photocopying, distribution or use of the information contained herein is prohibited. If you believe that you have received this e-mail in error, please notify the sender by reply transmission and delete the message without copying or disclosing it.



Please consider the environment before printing this email

 **Prior Tree Removal Permit Service Request.pdf**
144K

EXHIBIT 16



Exhibit 16.

Bryan Ramirez <bryan.ramirez@lacity.org>

Illegal removal of protected trees at 8461 Grand View Dr.

1 message

hs@pop2.org <hs@pop2.org>

Sun, Jul 30, 2023 at 2:54 PM

To: "aura.garcia@lacity.org" <aura.garcia@lacity.org>, "teresa.villegas@lacity.org" <teresa.villegas@lacity.org>, "mike.davis@lacity.org" <mike.davis@lacity.org>, "vahid.khorsand@lacity.org" <vahid.khorsand@lacity.org>, "susana.reyes@lacity.org" <susana.reyes@lacity.org>, "fernando.campos@lacity.org" <fernando.campos@lacity.org>, "david.miranda@lacity.org" <david.miranda@lacity.org>, "hector.banuelos@lacity.org" <hector.banuelos@lacity.org>, "stephen.duprey@lacity.org" <stephen.duprey@lacity.org>, "bryan.ramirez@lacity.org" <bryan.ramirez@lacity.org>, "Hydee.FeldsteinSoto@lacity.org" <Hydee.FeldsteinSoto@lacity.org>, "kevin.james@lacity.org" <kevin.james@lacity.org>, "ted.jordan@lacity.org" <ted.jordan@lacity.org>, "dennis.kong@lacity.org" <dennis.kong@lacity.org>, "nithya.raman@lacity.org" <nithya.raman@lacity.org>, "emma.taylor@lacity.org" <emma.taylor@lacity.org>, "mehmet.berker@lacity.org" <mehmet.berker@lacity.org>, "mashael.majid@lacity.org" <mashael.majid@lacity.org>, "angelenos4trees@gmail.com" <angelenos4trees@gmail.com>, "trees@ncsa.la" <trees@ncsa.la>, "diana@ittakesagarden.com" <diana@ittakesagarden.com>, "cmaddren@gmail.com" <cmaddren@gmail.com>, "jhall@laurelcanyon.org" <jhall@laurelcanyon.org>, "tlongcore@babanc.org" <tlongcore@babanc.org>, "mmann@babanc.org" <mmann@babanc.org>, "rschlesinger@babanc.org" <rschlesinger@babanc.org>, "nminer@babanc.org" <nminer@babanc.org>, "ssavage@babanc.org" <ssavage@babanc.org>, "edelman@smmc.ca.gov" <edelman@smmc.ca.gov>, "info@kirkwoodbowlfoundation.org" <info@kirkwoodbowlfoundation.org>

As a resident of the Kirkwood Bowl in Laurel Canyon, I am shocked about the illegal removal of multiple protected trees on the property at 8461 Grand View Drive without required permits per the California Protected Tree Ordinance.

The property owner took it upon himself to remove numerous California Black Walnut trees on this lot on June 28, 2023. He was caught, notified and asked to stop immediately. Although he did desist on that day, he returned on July 7 using a different tree removal service (as the first one expressed that they didn't want to be involved in illegal tree removal, so the owner CLEARLY knew that what he was doing was wrong) and defiantly removed more California Black Walnut trees! The lot is now completely barren of all vegetation, and he has not yet even applied for a building permit.

The previous owner encountered many obstacles when attempting to develop this lot and so will the present owner. This was also the site of a mudslide several years ago.

As a resident of Laurel Canyon, I am requesting City officials and representatives to hold this individual accountable and to demand strong enforcement as defined in the California Protected Tree Ordinance. Enforcement could include, but not be limited to, the withholding of building permits for 10 years. Additional fines and penalties are CERTAINLY appropriate in this case.

Our green spaces in Laurel Canyon are enjoyed by many residents and visitors every day. We are outraged that the damage done on this property, to our community and our environment cannot be repaired for many decades to come. We demand the punishment be applied to the full extent as demanded in the California Protected Tree Ordinance.

Thank you for your consideration in this case.

Heidi Servey
8219 Yucca Trail

Sent from ProtonMail, encrypted email based in Switzerland.

Sent with Proton Mail secure email.



Bryan Ramirez <bryan.ramirez@lacity.org>

ILLEGAL REMOVAL OF PROTECTED TREES AT 8461 GRAND VIEW DR.

1 message

james mills <quaco1@sbcglobal.net>

Sun, Jul 30, 2023 at 2:46 PM

To: "aura.garcia@lacity.org" <aura.garcia@lacity.org>, "teresa.villegas@lacity.org" <teresa.villegas@lacity.org>, "mike.davis@lacity.org" <mike.davis@lacity.org>, "vahid.khorsand@lacity.org" <vahid.khorsand@lacity.org>, "susana.reyes@lacity.org" <susana.reyes@lacity.org>, "fernando.campos@lacity.org" <fernando.campos@lacity.org>, "david.miranda@lacity.org" <david.miranda@lacity.org>, "hector.banuelos@lacity.org" <hector.banuelos@lacity.org>, "stephen.duprey@lacity.org" <stephen.duprey@lacity.org>, "bryan.ramirez@lacity.org" <bryan.ramirez@lacity.org>, "Hydee.FeldsteinSoto@lacity.org" <Hydee.FeldsteinSoto@lacity.org>, "kevin.james@lacity.org" <kevin.james@lacity.org>, "ted.jordan@lacity.org" <ted.jordan@lacity.org>, "dennis.kong@lacity.org" <dennis.kong@lacity.org>, "nithya.raman@lacity.org" <nithya.raman@lacity.org>, "emma.taylor@lacity.org" <emma.taylor@lacity.org>, "mehmet.berker@lacity.org" <mehmet.berker@lacity.org>, "mashael.majid@lacity.org" <mashael.majid@lacity.org>, "angelenos4trees@gmail.com" <angelenos4trees@gmail.com>, "trees@ncsa.la" <trees@ncsa.la>, "diana@ittakesagarden.com" <diana@ittakesagarden.com>, "cmaddren@gmail.com" <cmaddren@gmail.com>, "jhall@laurelcanyon.org" <jhall@laurelcanyon.org>, "tlongcore@babcn.org" <tlongcore@babcn.org>, "mmann@babcn.org" <mmann@babcn.org>, "rschlesinger@babcn.org" <rschlesinger@babcn.org>, "nminer@babcn.org" <nminer@babcn.org>, "ssavage@babcn.org" <ssavage@babcn.org>, "edelman@smmc.ca.gov" <edelman@smmc.ca.gov>, "info@kirkwoodbowlfoundation.org" <info@kirkwoodbowlfoundation.org>

As a resident of the Kirkwood Bowl area in Laurel Canyon, I am upset about the illegal removal of multiple protected trees on the property at 8461 Grand View Drive without required permits per the California Protected Tree Ordinance.

The lot's owner stripped the entire lot of all vegetation. He removed numerous California Black Walnut trees on this lot on June 28, 2023. He was caught, notified and asked to stop immediately. The tree removal service wanted no part in illegal tree removal and they all left that day. Then, the owner returned on July 7 using a different tree removal service, and defiantly removed more California Black Walnut trees. The lot is now completely barren of all vegetation ... and by the way, he has not yet even applied for a building permit!

The previous owner encountered many obstacles when attempting to develop this lot, and so will the present owner. This was also the site of a mudslide several years ago. The hillside, once covered with beautiful protected trees, is now totally bare, which, let's not forget, makes the possibility of another mudslide even greater.

As a resident of Laurel Canyon, we are requesting for City officials and representatives to hold this individual accountable and to demand strong enforcement as defined in the California Protected Tree Ordinance, to include but not limited to the withholding of building permits for 10 years. Additional fines and penalties are also certainly appropriate in this case.

Our green spaces in Laurel Canyon are enjoyed by many residents and visitors every day. We are outraged that the damage done on this property, to our community and our environment cannot be repaired for many decades to come. We demand the punishment be applied to the full extent as demanded in the California Protected Tree Ordinance.

Thank you so much for your consideration in this case.

Jim Mills
8219 Yucca Trail



Bryan Ramirez <bryan.ramirez@lacity.org>

ILLEGAL REMOVAL OF PROTECTED TREES AT 8461 GRANDVIEW DR.

1 message

jane kurson <kurson@mac.com>

Fri, Jul 28, 2023 at 1:30 PM

To: aura.garcia@lacity.org, teresa.villegas@lacity.org, mike.davis@lacity.org, vahid.khorsand@lacity.org, susana.reyes@lacity.org, fernando.campos@lacity.org, david.miranda@lacity.org, hector.banuelos@lacity.org, stephen.duprey@lacity.org, bryan.ramirez@lacity.org, Hydee.FeldsteinSoto@lacity.org, kevin.james@lacity.org, ted.jordan@lacity.org, dennis.kong@lacity.org, nithya.raman@lacity.org, emma.taylor@lacity.org, mehmet.berker@lacity.org, masha.el.majid@lacity.org, angelenos4trees@gmail.com, trees@ncsa.la, diana@ittakesagarden.com, cmadden@gmail.com, jhall@laurelcanyon.org, tlongcore@babcnc.org, mmann@babcnc.org, rschlesinger@babcnc.org, nminer@babcnc.org, ssavage@babcnc.org, edelman@smmc.ca.gov, info@kirkwoodbowlfoundation.org
Cc: jane kurson <kurson@mac.com>

Dear City Official,

As a resident of the Kirkwood Bowl in Laurel Canyon, I am outraged about the illegal removal of multiple protected trees on the property at 8461 Grandview Drive without required permits per the California Protected Tree Ordinance. He has basically stripped the entire lot of all vegetation.

The property owner took it upon himself to remove numerous California Black Walnut trees on this lot on June 28, 2023. He was caught, notified and asked to stop immediately. Although he did desist on that day, he returned on July 7 using a different tree removal service and defiantly removed more California Black Walnut trees. The lot is now completely barren of all vegetation, and he has not yet even applied for a building permit. The previous owner encountered many obstacles when attempting to develop this lot and so will the present owner. This was also the site of a mudslide several years ago.

As a resident of Laurel Canyon, we are requesting for any and every City official and representative to hold this individual accountable and demand strong enforcement as defined in the California Protected Tree Ordinance to include but not limited to the withholding of building permits for 10 years. Additional fines and penalties are also certainly appropriate in this case.

Our green spaces in Laurel Canyon are enjoyed by many residents and visitors every day. We are outraged that the damage done on this property, to our community and our environment cannot be repaired for many decades to come. We demand the punishment be applied to the full extent as demanded in the California Protected Tree Ordinance.

Thank you for your consideration in this case.

Jane Kurson
8221 Yucca Trail



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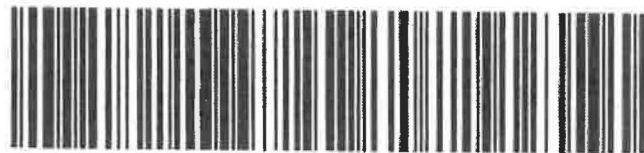
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