From:	D4ward SF
To:	Safai, Ahsha (BOS); MandelmanStaff, [BOS]
Cc:	Peskin, Aaron (BOS); Preston, Dean (BOS); MelgarStaff (BOS); Mar, Gordon (BOS); Major, Erica (BOS)
Subject:	LUTC - Request continuance of Item 4 File 210836 - Public Works Code - Street Tree Planting and Removal
Date:	Sunday, October 17, 2021 6:23:55 PM
Attachments:	D4ward - Request for Continuance Item 4- 210836.pdf

Sunset Rises to Action
www.facebook.com/D4wardSF
D4wardSF@gmail.com

October 17, 2021

To: Supervisors Safai and Mandelman

Subject: LUTC - Request continuance of Item 4 File 210836 - Public Works Code - Street Tree Planting and Removal

D4ward is a residents' forward-thinking advocacy group dedicated to meeting the challenges of the future while preserving and enhancing the unique character of District 4 and San Francisco.
D4ward asks that the Land Use and Transportation Committee continue Item 4 "210836. Public Works Code - Street Tree Planting and Removal" to a future date.

D4ward appreciates the efforts of Supervisors Safai and Mandelman to introduce legislation with the good intention of protecting and increasing San Francisco's street trees. However, we have concerns about this legislation. Our concerns include: the loss of the right of the public to appeal Hazard Tree removal; the lack of a more robust approach to equity in tree replacement planting; the lack of public involvement in creating the legislation, and the addition of language that allows the Department of Public Works to require the removal of trees on private property - an action that is not described in either the title of the legislation or in the legislative digest.

On October 14th the Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee (PSNS) held a hearing on the various City programs for street tree planting and preservation in San Francisco as well as trees on Rec and Park and SF PUC lands. There was so much information that the item was continued to a future PSNS meeting. Ordinance 210836 should be considered after that hearing, so that both the BOS and the public have a complete picture of the impact that the proposed Article 16 amendments will have on San Francisco's street tree canopy.
We suggest that the legislation's sponsors might also be able to expand their legislation by asking for input from the various residents and groups throughout San Francisco who have been advocating for preserving street trees and establishing an equitable tree canopy program.

Thank you for your consideration.

cc: Supervisors Peskin, Preston, Melgar, and Mar; Assistant Clerk Erica Major

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cc: Supervisors Peskin, Preston, Melgar, and Mar; Assistant Clerk Erica Major

From:	Board of Supervisors, (BOS)
To:	Major, Erica (BOS)
Subject:	FW: LUTC- Request continuance of Item 4. 210836. Public Works Code - Street Tree Planting and Removal; Concerns with this legislation
Date:	Monday, October 18, 2021 10:35:46 AM
Attachments:	image005.png SFUN 10-16-2021 Item 4. Street Trees.pdf

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From: SF Parc <sfparc@earthlink.net>
Sent: Saturday, October 16, 2021 6:58 PM
To: MelgarStaff (BOS) <melgarstaff@sfgov.org>; Aaron Peskin <aaron.peskin@earthlink.net>; Preston, Dean (BOS) <dean.preston@sfgov.org>
Cc: Board of Supervisors, (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>; MandelmanStaff, [BOS] <mandelmanstaff@sfgov.org>; Safai, Ahsha (BOS) <ahsha.safai@sfgov.org>; Mar, Gordon (BOS) <gordon.mar@sfgov.org>; Stefani, Catherine (BOS) <catherine.stefani@sfgov.org>
Subject: LUTC- Request continuance of Item 4. 210836. Public Works Code - Street Tree Planting and Removal; Concerns with this legislation

San Franciscans for Urban Nature

To: Chair, Supervisor Myrna Melgar
Supervisor Aaron Peskin
Supervisor Dean Preston

CC: Supervisor Rafael Mandelman
Supervisor Asha Safai

Date: October 16, 2021

Subject: Request continuance of Item 4. 210836. Public Works Code - Street Tree Planting and Removal;
Concerns with this legislation.

San Franciscans for Urban Nature (SFUN) is a community group of activists for preserving and increasing nature in our cities.




San Franciscans for Urban Nature

To: Chair, Supervisor Myrna Melgar
Supervisor Aaron Peskin
Supervisor Dean Preston

CC: Supervisor Rafael Mandelman
Supervisor Asha Safai

Date: October 16, 2021

Subject: Request continuance of Item 4. 210836. Public Works Code - Street Tree Planting and Removal
Concerns with this legislation

San Franciscans for Urban Nature (SFUN) is a community group of activists for preserving and increasing nature in our cities.

SFUN appreciates the hearing on October 14th at the Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee on the various City department's approaches to tree planting and preservation in San Francisco. There was a great deal of data that will take some time to absorb; in addition, the item was not completed and the hearing on trees was continued to the next Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee meeting.

However, we have just learned that next Monday, October 18th, the proposed revisions to Article 16 will be heard at the BOS Land Use and Transportation Committee (LUTC).

We have just started examining this important legislation and have not had time to do a full analysis. We do have concerns about the possibility of misuse of the Hazard Tree language and also the need to review the legislation in terms of equity in tree replacement planting. In addition, there has been language added about DPW removing trees on private property, although the ordinance title refers to street trees and the legislative summary does not mention private trees.

Since there will be more information on tree policies in the next Public Safety and Neighborhood Services hearing, we would appreciate having that information on hand in order to better appreciate the impact that the Article 16 amendments with have on San Francisco's street tree canopy.

Therefore, we request that the hearing on the Article 16 legislation be continued until the Public Safety and Neighborhood Services hearings can be completed and the public has time to review and comment on the Article 16 changes in the light of that information.

Sincerely,
Natalie Downe
Corresponding Secretary

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Sincerely,
Natalie Downe
Corresponding Secretary

From:	Board of Supervisors, (BOS)
To:	Major, Erica (BOS)
Subject:	FW: For Land Use and Transportation Committee Mon. Oct 18 2021 Meeting - File No. 210836
Date:	Monday, October 18, 2021 10:23:38 AM

From: LINDA SHAFFER <ljshaffer1@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, October 15, 2021 4:01 PM
To: MandelmanStaff, [BOS] <mandelmanstaff@sfgov.org>; MelgarStaff (BOS) <melgarstaff@sfgov.org>; Preston, Dean (BOS) <dean.preston@sfgov.org>; Safai, Ahsha (BOS) <ahsha.safai@sfgov.org>; Mar, Gordon (BOS) <gordon.mar@sfgov.org>; Peskin, Aaron (BOS) <aaron.peskin@sfgov.org>; Stefani, Catherine (BOS) <catherine.stefani@sfgov.org>; Board of Supervisors, (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>
Subject: For Land Use and Transportation Committee Mon. Oct 18 2021 Meeting

Re: agenda item 3, #210836, Public Works Code - Street Tree Planting and Removal

Supervisors Melgar, Preston and Peskin,

A proposed ordinance to amend language in the Public Works Code pertaining to Street Trees is on the upcoming Oct. 18th agenda for discussion at the Land Use and Transportation Committee.

Given that on Thursday Oct. 14th, the Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee just started an important and comprehensive hearing on city trees in general, including street trees, and given that that hearing was continued for lack of time, it seems premature for another committee to move forward with this related matter.

Please continue item 3 on Monday's agenda to some future date. This will
(a) allow the Public Safety Committee to finish its comprehensive hearing; and
(b) give concerned members of the public more time to digest the proposed amendments to the Public Works Code, and to make better informed constructive comment.

Thank you,

Linda Shaffer

San Francisco District 1 resident and former member of PROSAC

From:	Board of Supervisors, (BOS)
To:	Major, Erica (BOS)
Subject:	FW: LUTC: Item 4. 210836. Request for continuance. Also, concerns with this Ordinance.
Date:	Monday, October 18, 2021 10:40:50 AM

From: Kathy Howard <kathyhoward@earthlink.net>
Sent: Sunday, October 17, 2021 5:17 PM
To: MandelmanStaff, [BOS] <mandelmanstaff@sfgov.org>; MelgarStaff (BOS) <melgarstaff@sfgov.org>; Preston, Dean (BOS) <dean.preston@sfgov.org>; Safai, Ahsha (BOS) <ahsha.safai@sfgov.org>; Peskin, Aaron (BOS) <aaron.peskin@sfgov.org>
Cc: ChanStaff (BOS) <chanstaff@sfgov.org>; Walton, Shamann (BOS) <shamann.walton@sfgov.org>; Haney, Matt (BOS) <matt.haney@sfgov.org>; Mar, Gordon (BOS) <gordon.mar@sfgov.org>; Peskin, Aaron (BOS) <aaron.peskin@sfgov.org>; Ronen, Hillary <hillary.ronen@sfgov.org>; Stefani, Catherine (BOS) <catherine.stefani@sfgov.org>; Board of Supervisors, (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>
Subject: LUTC: Item 4. 210836. Request for continuance. Also, concerns with this Ordinance.

Dear Supervisors,

I understand that the intent of the Article 16 amendments is to promote a healthy and equitable tree canopy in San Francisco, and this effort on the part of Supervisors Safai and Mandelman is much appreciated. However, I have concerns about some unintended consequences of this legislation that open up the potential for damage to our urban forest, which may not have been considered in creating this ordinance.

Please continue this item to a future date for the following reasons:

- A continuance will help to better inform the legislation with data from the follow-up Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee (PSNS) hearing on trees in San Francisco.
- The loss of the public's ability to appeal the decision to classify a tree as a 'Hazard' may result in the subsequent loss of many trees that might otherwise be preserved. Many trees that have been classified as a Hazard Trees in the past have survived and thrived without being removed and not caused any damage. The "Emergency Removal" classification will still be available for obviously dangerous situations.
- Public officials may employ personal preferences in tree removals; this has already happened in at least one department. This Ordinance opens up the door for abuse of the Hazard Tree removal process.
- The ordinance allows trees on private property to be declared hazardous without the right of appeal for a property owner. There is no information in the Legislative Digest notifying the public that the Department of Public Works will be able to a) send someone to their private yards and b) mandate the removal of a tree without a public hearing or recourse to an appeal.

- CEQA review has been eliminated. The Planning Department has stated that this legislation is not subject to CEQA, because there is no basis to conclude that it "may cause either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment." It is unclear how the possible removal of hundreds of trees with no ability of the public to appeal this removal, even if replaced at a later date, could not cause a direct physical change in the environment for our City streets.
- The ordinance should take a closer look at equity in tree replacement planting and involve residents from under-represented neighborhoods in formulating the language.

Various groups and individuals all over San Francisco have participated in not only tree planting but also tree preservation efforts. These groups would be an asset in giving input into enhanced legislation that can further the goals of a healthy, dense, and equitable tree canopy.

A continuance and a more inclusive public process could result in an ordinance that can better fulfill the good intentions of the sponsors to protect and enhance our urban forest.

Thank you for your consideration.

Katherine Howard

District 4