

MEETING DATE: April 6, 2010

AGENDA ITEM: (1) Rescind the Recommendation Approved in Agenda Item Number A-2 for the Meeting Date of December 1, 2009 to Plant the Camphor Tree in Place of the Victorian Box Tree along the 4100 and 4200 Blocks of Baldwin Avenue; and, (2) Consider Recommending the Bottle Tree as the Replacement Tree Species in the Area.

ATTACHMENTS

	<u>Pages</u>
A. Excerpt of the Approved Minutes of the December 1, 2009 Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission Meeting	1
B. Excerpt of the Approved Minutes of the January 25, 2010 City Council Meeting	2-3
C. Survey Packet Sent to Residents/Property Owners of the 4100 and 4200 Blocks of Baldwin Avenue	4-6

ATTACHMENT A

EXCERPT OF THE APPROVED MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
PARKS, RECREATION AND
COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION
CITY OF CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA

December 1, 2009
7:00 P.M.

Call to Order & Roll Call

The meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission was called to order at 7:02 P.M.

Present: Chair Vicki Daly Redholtz
Vice Chair Rick Hudson
Commissioner Marianne Kim
Commissioner Laura Stuart
Commissioner Mary Ann Greene

oOo

*****EXCERPT BEGINS*****

Item A-2

Approve the Substitution of the Camphor Tree in Lieu of the Tree Recommended in the City's Street Tree Master Plan, the Victorian Box, along the 4100 and 4200 blocks of Baldwin Avenue

Eric Mirzaian, Senior Management Analyst, Public Works, provided a summary of the material of record and clarified that staff was seeking a Commission recommendation.

Commissioners and staff discussed: resident feedback on the matter; drought resistant trees; why the Street Tree Master Plan comes before the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission rather than the Planning Commission; policies for tree removal and resident plantings in the parkways; trees and infrastructure in the area near Elenda and Jasmine by the high school; Hubbard Street; and concern with not having enough information.

MOVED BY CHAIR DALY REDHOLTZ, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HUDSON, AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO RECOMMEND THAT THE CITY COUNCIL SUBSTITUTE THE CAMPHOR TREE IN LIEU OF THE TREE RECOMMENDED IN THE CITY'S STREET TREE MASTER PLAN, THE VICTORIAN BOX, ALONG THE 4100 AND 4200 BLOCKS OF BALDWIN AVENUE.

oOo

*****EXCERPT ENDS*****

ATTACHMENT B

**EXCERPT OF THE APPROVED MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CITY COUNCIL, CITY OF CULVER CITY,
CALIFORNIA**

January 25, 2010
6:01 p.m.

Call to Order & Roll Call

The meeting of the City Council was called to order at 6:01 p.m.

Present: Andrew Weissman, Mayor
Christopher Armenta, Vice Mayor
D. Scott Malsin, Councilmember
Micheál O'Leary, Councilmember
Gary Silbiger, Councilmember

o0o

*****EXCERPT BEGINS*****

Item A-3

**Consideration of the Parks, Recreation and Community Services
Commission's Recommendation to Substitute the Camphor Tree in
Lieu of the Victorian Box as Recommended in the City's Adopted
Street Tree Master Plan Along the 4100 and 4200 Blocks of
Baldwin Avenue.**

Mayor Weissman invited public participation.

The following members of the audience addressed the City
Council:

Sandra Kallander reported that the current trees were dying;
wanted to see alternative trees considered; expressed concern
with proper tree size and root damage; and reported significant
issues with camphor trees planted in other cities.

Robert Zirgulis expressed concern with long-term consequences of
the proposed change and he asked that another tree be
considered.

Charles Herbertson, Public Works Director/City Engineer and Eric
Mirzaian, Senior Management Analyst, Public Works Department
responded to speaker comments. They clarified that the tree is
part of the Street Tree Master Plan and considered a desirable
street tree species in Southern California; an explanation of
the process for the recommendation; notification procedures;

positive feedback from residents anxious to have healthy trees; and no reported speaker cards at the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission meeting when this item was considered.

Discussion ensued between the City Council and staff regarding camphor trees on surrounding streets; an observation that different trees react differently in different areas; root damage to sidewalks and sewers; expected lifespan of the tree; examples of 50-year old camphor trees in the City or in other California cities; clarification that the tree is listed in approved publications as a desirable street tree for the long term in Southern California; concern with notification procedures; involving neighbors in the process of picking the trees; a suggestion to hold the item for additional information; whether the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission was given a choice of tree; and a suggestion to include an image of the tree in the report along with the scientific description.

Councilmember Silbiger proposed a motion to provide residents with several trees to choose from based on the Street Tree Master Plan and the particular environment on the street.

Following discussion, the City Council concurred to hold this item over until staff returns with additional information.

o0o

*****EXCERPT ENDS*****

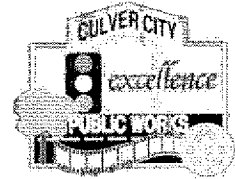


Culver CITY

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

9770 Culver Boulevard, Culver City, California 90232

ATTACHMENT C



(310) 253-5600

FAX (310) 253-5626

Charles D. Herbertson, PE LS
Public Works Director and
City Engineer

February 10, 2010

Subject: Proposed tree replacement on Baldwin Ave

Dear Baldwin Avenue Property Owners:

In June 2009, the Culver City Public Works Department removed 13 Victorian Box and Queensland Pittosporum trees that were identified to be in an advanced state of decline due to excessive defoliation and canopy decline. In December 2009, The Public Works Department made a recommendation to the Parks, Recreation & Community Services Commission (PRCSC) to plant Camphor Trees in lieu of the Victorian Box as recommended by the City's adopted Street Tree Master Plan. The Camphor Tree was recommended in lieu of the Victorian Box due to the poor performance of the Victorian Box at this location. The PRCSC approved Staff's recommendation by unanimous vote. This approved recommendation was then taken to the City Council on January 25, 2010 for their approval. At that meeting, several residents expressed concerns regarding the Camphor tree. The City Council directed Staff to seek input from all the residents of Baldwin Avenue.

Prior to returning to the PRCSC and City Council for final approval, City Staff would like to obtain your opinion on possible tree plantings for Baldwin Avenue. Included in this letter is a survey providing residents with the option of selecting one of three tree choices. The choices include the Camphor Tree, the Jacaranda Tree and the Bottle Tree. All three of these species of trees are currently planted on surrounding streets in the area and are performing quite well and have been determined to be suitable replacements to the Victorian Box. Please indicate your selection on the survey. Additionally, a photograph of each proposed tree is enclosed, as well as, brief characteristic descriptions of each tree (*Source: Street Trees Recommended for Southern California-Second Edition*).

The survey is due no later than **5:00 PM on Thursday, February 25, 2010**. Please return the survey using the self addressed and stamped postcard enclosed for your convenience. Surveys may also be personally dropped off at the return address indicated on the postcard.

The residents of Baldwin Avenue will be notified of Staff's intention to take the matter to the PRCSC and City Council; at which point the results of the survey will be announced and a final recommendation by City Staff will be made.

We greatly appreciate your cooperation and participation in this survey. If you have further questions or need clarification, feel free to contact me at (310) 253-6410.

Thank you,
Eric Mirzaian

Eric Mirzaian
Senior Management Analyst

CC: Charles D. Herbertson, Public Works Director & City Engineer
Heustace Lewis, Maintenance Operations Manager
Steve Orozco, Street & Tree Maintenance Supervisor

Culver City Employees take pride in effectively providing the highest levels of service to enrich the quality of life for the community by building on our tradition of more than seventy-five years of public service, by our present commitment, and by our dedication to meet the challenges of the future.

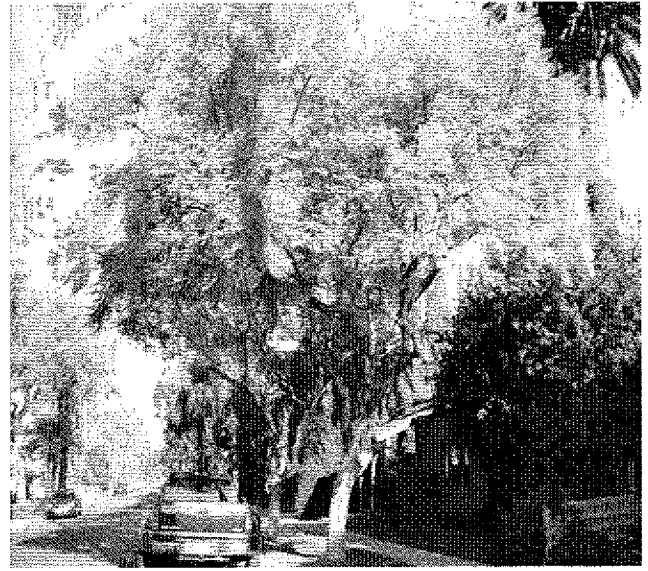
**BALDWIN AVENUE
STREET TREE SURVEY**
(Please Select One)

- _____ CAMPHOR TREE:: Suitable for parkways & utility lines; rapid growth; no significant pest problems; shade tree; maintains existing canopy.
- _____ JACARANDA TREE:: Suitable for parkways & utility lines; moderate growth; spectacular flowering; no significant pest problems; shade tree
- _____ BOTTLE TREE:: Suitable for parkways & utility lines; moderate growth; drought tolerant; no significant pest problems; maintains existing tree canopy

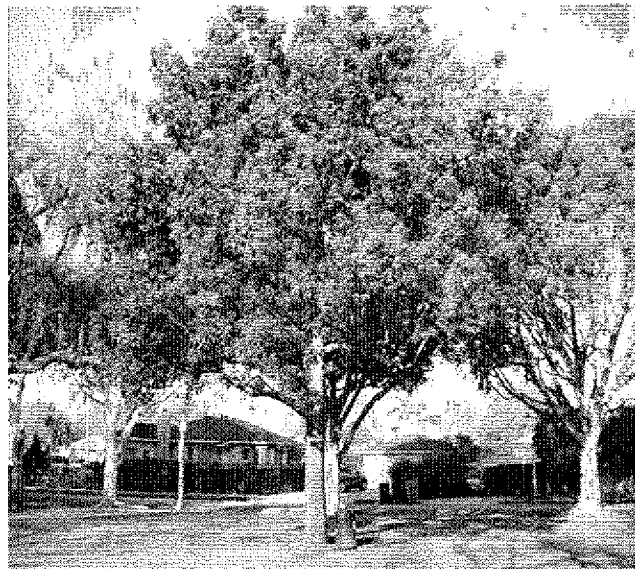
Surveys due no later than 5:00 PM on Thursday February 25, 2010



**CAMPBOR TREE
(CINNAMOMUM CAMPHORA)**
Tree in photo located at Farragut & La Salle



**JACARANDA TREE
(JACARANDA MIMOSIFOLIA)**
Tree in photo located on Jackson Avenue



**BOTTLE TREE
(BRACHYCHITON POPULNEUS)**
Tree in photo located in Carlson Park