

Date: May 24, 2019

To: City of Mountain View, Appeal for Heritage tree removal at 1859 Elsie Ave.

I am writing this appeal to the city against the approval of a heritage tree located at 1859 Elsie Ave., Mountain View, Ca. as posted on the removal permit. Several of our neighbors have expressed a concern over its removal. The sycamore tree is a healthy living tree that services a purpose of energy conservation, noise abatement, beauty and has been known to house families of Peregrine Falcons.

The tree is one of many spaced along the right side of Elsie Ave. It provides shade and shelter for at least six houses. It acts as a noise buffer from the Caltrain tracks whose train whistle blare more often now then ever and it buffers the road noise on central express way that is more congested due to increased traffic. Families of the Peregrine Falcon have nester in this particular tree on several occasions.

To allow this tree to be removed and replaced by a concrete slab to accommodate a trailer parking advantage does not make sense or is in keeping of Mountains Views environment views as stated on the city's web site. There is only one two story house on Elsie Ave and it is located next door to the one being built who requested the permit. There are no other trailers parked on the street or in driveways along Elsie Ave. as the application implies. The owner located at 1871 Elsie also doesn't want the tree removed and has called the number on the permit to express her concerns only to get passed on from phone number to phone number (run around).

There are three families located at 1871 Elsie, 1874 Elsie and 1860 Elsie who object to the removal and would like to appeal it but the permit says a \$50 fee must accompany the appeal. Mountain Views City web site on appeals for heritage trees says a \$15-dollar fee is charged for the appeal?

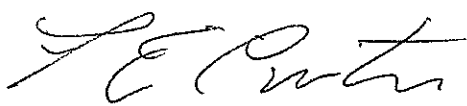
Frank Custer

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Home #

Mountain View



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May 24, 2019

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Forestry Division
231 N. Whisman Road
Mountain View, CA 94043

We are writing to express our concern about our neighbor's plan to cut down a heritage tree at 1859 Elsie Avenue.

Mountain View is distinguished by its beautiful tree-lined avenues, which makes it a healthy and enjoyable place to live. Trees reduce stress levels as well as summer temperatures and fossil fuel emissions, and thus are valuable in their own right. This is why Mountain View wisely adopted a heritage tree ordinance: to preserve this precious communal resource, the legacy of many generations of tree planters.

Our neighbor at 1859 Elsie Avenue complains that the tree—a healthy, beautiful, mature sycamore—prevents him from parking his mobile home in the driveway. However at this time there is no structure on his property. He can easily place his driveway on the other side of his property where the tree would not prevent his parking arrangements for his mobile home. Regardless, the idea that he could be permitted to cut down this magnificent tree in order to more conveniently park his trailer makes a mockery of our heritage tree ordinance. It is precisely in order to prevent such wanton acts of destruction that the ordinance was created.

Elsie Avenue is a pleasant street, cool in the summer, and wonderful for walking, because it is lined with beautiful heritage trees. As a result, the neighbors spend a lot of time outside, strolling, gardening, sitting on our front porches, walking dogs, watching children, and visiting. Cutting down any of these trees would reduce ambience and our sense of community as well as property values for all residents on the street. We urge you to help preserve the wonderful ambience of this neighborhood by denying his thoughtless request to cut down this tree.

Sincerely yours,

Hazel Cheilek
Hazel Cheilek

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[Handwritten signature]
[Redacted]

Justin G...
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[Handwritten signature]
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MARTIN OMAWDER
[Handwritten signature]
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Randy Z...
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