

Robert Klein, Resident, Willow Park
[REDACTED]
Mountain View, CA 94043
March 8, 2025

Mr. Hansen
City of Mountain View

Dear Mr. Hansen,

I hope this message finds you well.

I am writing in response to your office's recent decision to deny Willow Park's request to remove three Eucalyptus trees located on the property at 500 W. Middlefield Road, as posted on March 5, 2025. As a long-term resident of Willow Park for nearly 40 years, I have witnessed an ongoing history of problems with these specific trees, which I believe pose a serious and growing safety concern.

Most recently, in July, a large limb from one of these trees fell near my home. While it certainly did cause property damage due to the branches attached to the broken limb that fell, we were fortunate that no one was injured. The curved branch fell directly along the curved pathway leading to my front door. Had anyone been walking along that path at the time, there would have been zero opportunity to avoid serious injury or even death.

Over the years, there have been multiple instances where large limbs have fallen—onto Middlefield Road, onto my building, and in other areas—each time presenting a significant danger and resulting in property damage.

An additional concern I have observed is the presence of a red, sticky sap that appears to drip from these trees, particularly during periods of heat and drought. I've learned this can be a sign of distress, often related to insect activity, physical trauma, or environmental stress. Notably, prior to the recent limb failure from Tree #1, there was a ~14-inch sap stain on the walkway beneath the branch which dried, appearing just weeks before it fell. Similarly, Tree #3, which towers over the roof of my building, has an even larger limb that produced a ~20-inch sap stain beneath it during a hot and dry spell several months ago. I am expecting it to also drop in the near future. This tree also bears a significant old wound from a previous large branch failure.

While Eucalyptus trees can be beautiful, their brittle nature, susceptibility to dropping limbs without warning, and high flammability make them a serious hazard—particularly in an area like ours, which experiences periods of intense heat and drought. They are not native to this region and are poorly suited to our local climate conditions.

Given the consistent history of dangerous limb drops, the heightened fire risk, and the heavy pedestrian traffic along Middlefield Road (not to mention the cars frequently parked beneath these trees on weekends and evenings), I respectfully ask that the City reconsider Willow Park's request to remove these three hazardous trees (Trees #1-3). There are many alternative tree species available that would provide beauty and shade without presenting these serious risks to public safety.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

Robert Klein, Resident
[REDACTED]

RECEIVED

MAR 10 2025

CITY CLERK

Appealing Denial



City of
Mountain View

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

Miscellaneous Fee
Collection Schedule

Name: Robert Klein Date: 3-10-25

Address: 500 W. Middlefield #21 (tree 1-3)

ACCOUNT

020012-42715	Sales of maps, pamphlets, codes, ordinances, charters, publications, Precise Plans, agendas, minutes, Council reports, copies, faxes (DOCFEE)	_____
020012-42799	Heritage Tree Appeal (TREEAP)	<u>\$50.00</u>
020012-42715	Sales of City Code and Code Supplements Subscription (CTYSUB)	_____
710100-22150	Elections—Deposit for Printing of Candidate's Statement (CANDST)	_____
020038-42715	Elections—Precinct Maps (ELCMAP)	_____
020012-43643	Sales of City Souvenirs (SOUVEN)	_____
211215-42799	Zoning Appeal to Council—CDD (ZONEPP)	_____
020012-42799	Other Appeal to Council (_____)	_____
020012-43623	Building Attendant and Rental Fee (CCATTN)	_____
710100-22171	Security Deposit	_____
020012-43643	Sale of Souvenirs (Trek Store)	_____
SUBTOTAL		<u>\$50.00</u>
TAX		_____
TOTAL		<u>\$50.00</u>

City Of Mountain View

Date: 03/10/25

MGA /MG10/CD2

Time: 15:17:09

Receipt No: 570813

Account No: ROBERT KLEIN

Beginning Balance	0.00
HERITAGE TREE APPEAL	-50.00
Ending Balance	-50.00

CREDIT CARD Amount 50.00

Payment	50.00
Change	0.00

Thank You And Have A Nice Day

NOTE: After payment is received, please return this form and validated receipt to the City Clerk's Office.

Issued by:

Melissa Garcia

Receipt No:

570813

Dear Mr. Hansen

I am writing to express my objection to the recent decision made concerning the proposed Heritage Tree Removals on 500 W Middlefield Road in Mountain View, as communicated in your notification posted March 5th, 2025.

I believe the retention of the Eucalyptus trees, numbered #1, and #3, overlooks the risks posed to the public and adjacent properties by those trees.

On July 3rd, 2024, a catastrophic sudden branch drop occurred with tree #1 which caused severe damage to unit # 16 in the Willow Park complex, including the branch penetrating the wall of the dwelling that could easily have caused serious injury. Note that I can provide photos and information about the scope of said damage upon request. Fortunately, no members of the public were using the complex's walkway adjacent to units #16 and # 22, at the time and more remarkably, no-one was also on the Middlefield sidewalk at the time of the event. Significant injuries, even death, would have resulted if this was the case.

This is not the first time that sudden branch drops have occurred with these particular Eucalyptus trees. Previously a similar sized limb dropped on to the Middlefield thoroughfare, narrowly missing passing traffic. Was there any kind of Risk Management process employed in making the decision NOT to remove these trees? Were these past sudden branch drops taken into account? It seems to myself and other nearby residents that the decision didn't fully take into account the risks posed by the retention of these Eucalyptus trees, including the potential loss of life and the significant risk to adjacent properties.

The decision to retain these Eucalyptus trees is seemingly based upon "*Future pruning can wound from limb failure on building side of tree and improved structure*" to which the following questions arise, by whom and when? And is there an absolute surety that this pruning (if completed properly) will fully mitigate the risk of further sudden branch drops? And then, if the pruning is indeed carried out improperly later at some future date, does not the risk of sudden branch drop return?

To the best of anyone's knowledge, there is no consensus about what exactly causes sudden branch drop but it is known that it typically occurs during hotter days which is consistent with the 3rd of July event with reported temperature exceeding 100F, whereby such mature trees cannot get enough water to support themselves and simply drops a limb to compensate.

The potential fire hazard factor is also a significant issue, as the leaves of the Eucalyptus trees are full of oil and extremely flammable (are much more ignitable compared to other tree species and burn at higher fire intensities). Also, because eucalyptus trees are extremely messy and produce a huge amount of fallen dead leaves and twigs at the base of the tree, which when combined with the peeling bark from the tree, these dead leaves are the most energy-rich components with high flammability potential, located somewhat less than 6 feet way from the adjacent building's structure.

RECEIVED

MAR 10 2025

CITY CLERK

Given the critical importance of maintaining a safe environment to those living in or frequenting the proximity to these trees, I believe reconsideration is warranted, especially in the light of the Tree Regulations of the City of Mountain View SEC. 32.35. a).1*"The condition of the tree with respect to age of the tree relative to the life span of that particular species, disease, infestation, general health, damage, **public nuisance, danger of falling, proximity to existing or proposed structures,** and interference with utility services".*

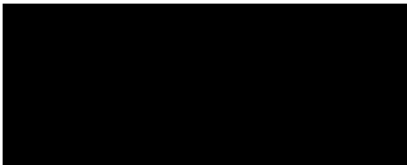
Ord. No. 10.96, 9/24/96; Ord. No. 1.03, 1/14/03

In light of these points, I would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this matter further. I am confident that a dialog can lead to a resolution that respects both the objectives of the city's Arborist (Urban Forestry) and the interests of the Willow Park community.

Thank you for considering this appeal. I look forward to your response and am hopeful for a resolution that aligns with our shared goals.

Regards,

Joe Mulcahy



Appealing Denial



City of
Mountain View

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

Miscellaneous Fee
Collection Schedule

Name: Joe Mulcahy Date: 3-10-25

Address: 500 W Middlefield #16 tree (#1-3)

ACCOUNT

020012-42715	Sales of maps, pamphlets, codes, ordinances, charters, publications, Precise Plans, agendas, minutes, Council reports, copies, faxes (DOCFEE)	
020012-42799	Heritage Tree Appeal (TREEAP)	\$ 50.00
020012-42715	Sales of City Code and Code Supplements Subscription (CTYSUB)	
710100-22150	Elections—Deposit for Printing of Candidate's Statement (CANDST)	
020038-42715	Elections—Precinct Maps (ELCMAP)	
020012-43643	Sales of City Souvenirs (SOUVEN)	
211215-42799	Zoning Appeal to Council—CDD (ZONEPP)	
020012-42799	Other Appeal to Council (_____)	
020012-43623	Building Attendant and Rental Fee (CCATTN)	
710100-22171	Security Deposit	
020012-43643	Sales of Souvenirs (Clerk Store)	
SUBTOTAL		\$ 50.00
TAX		
TOTAL		\$ 50.00



NOTE: After the issuance of this receipt, the form and Administrative Services Department, please return this form and validated receipt to the City Clerk's Office.

Issued by: Melissa Garcia Receipt No.: 570812

CC-02(A) (Rev-08-10-22)

City Of Mountain View

Date: 03/10/25 MGA /MG10/CD2
Time: 15:13:42 Receipt No: 570812

Account No: JOE P MULCAHY

Beginning Balance	0.00
HERITAGE TREE APPEAL	-50.00
Ending Balance	-50.00

CREDIT CARD Amount 50.00

Payment 50.00
Change 0.00

Thank You And Have A Nice Day