



Venice Neighborhood Council

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June 1, 2009

Councilmember Bill Rosendahl
City of Los Angeles
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Re: Unauthorized Cutting of Trees on Venice Blvd.

Dear Bill:

Over the past few years our community has witnessed the topping of several trees near the intersection of Venice Blvd. and Lincoln Blvd. These trees, which were planted within the sidewalk under City permits, seem to have grown to a height that they started block the billboard at that location.

In approximately October 2008, several more trees were completely cut down from within the public right-of-way at 658 Venice Blvd. These trees were also planted by local activists with permits from the City, as part of the community plan for creating a Ceremonial Gateway to Venice.

Since we seem unable to get City departments to act on our request, our Board unanimously voted to ask you to personally follow up on this illegal action and help the City to bring the maximum fines and penalties to these offenders.

At the very minimum we want the removed trees replaced by trees of similar size and value. Since those trees were over fifteen years old with trunks nearly a foot in diameter, if it is not feasible to install such large trees we ask to have the fines provide funding to other greening efforts in Venice. Of course, the trees that were removed must be replaced with those specified in approved landscaping plans for Venice Blvd.

We would appreciate your help with this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike R. Newhouse".

Mike Newhouse
President
Venice Neighborhood Council

Cc: secretary@veniceNC.org
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