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NEWPORT BEACH

PB&R Commission Staff Report

Agenda Item **VII-A**
December 5, 2023

TO: Parks, Beaches & Recreation Commission

FROM: Public Works Department / Municipal Operations Division
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TITLE: Reforestation Request – 1853 Port Sheffield Place

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff requests the Parks, Beaches, and Recreation (PB&R) Commission consider the reforestation request of a City Lemon-Scented Gum Eucalyptus (*Corymbia citriodora*) tree located at 1853 Port Sheffield Place. The applicants, Nathan & Julie Chiaverini, residing at 1848 Port Abbey Place, have met the procedural requirements for reforestation established in City Council Policy G-1 (*Retention, Removal, and Maintenance of City Trees*). If approved by the PB&R Commission, there will be a one-for-one replacement tree installed at the applicant's cost of a 48-inch box Bay Laurel 'Saratoga' (*Laurus nobilis* 'Saratoga').

DISCUSSION:

Nathan & Julie Chiaverini, residing at 1848 Port Abbey Place, contacted the City Arborist to request the removal of a City Lemon-Scented Gum Eucalyptus located at 1853 Port Sheffield Place, which is adjacent to their property. Their request is due to previous property damage from limb failures, and concerns of additional property damage or personal injury resulting from future limb failures.

During an inclement wind event on October 25, 2020, the applicant's home was struck by a large limb from the adjacent City Eucalyptus tree resulting in approximately \$3,000 in damage to the roof and chimney. The City requested a tree risk assessment from its consulting arborist, Dudek, Inc. (Dudek). The tree was rated at an overall low risk. Additionally, corrective, structural pruning was advised as mitigation, which was undertaken.

On August 20, 2023, during Tropical Storm Hilary, several large branches had broken off the tree and landed in their yard and the nearby sidewalk and no damage was reported. However, the applicants continue to express concerns during inclement wind events, such as seasonal Santa Ana winds.

In advance of the PB&R Commission Meeting, staff requested Dudek to assess the Eucalyptus tree. On November 7, 2023, Dudek inspected and assessed the tree. The tree continues to be rated as an overall low risk and pruning mitigation has been recommended. Additionally, Dudek

recommended level 3 testing be performed to ascertain the condition of the root system due to potential root pruning performed under previous sidewalk work in 2017.

Staff also inspected the tree and determined that the tree is in good condition. However, future root pruning to repair potential sidewalk trip hazards is likely and may result in additional mitigation work. Since these conditions do not meet the criteria for removal referenced in the G-1 Policy, the applicants were advised of the Reforestation process as an option. The Chiaverini's are willing to pay for the tree removal and the planting of a 48-inch box Bay Laurel 'Saratoga' (*Laurus nobilis* 'Saratoga') as a replacement tree.

NOTICING:

Councilmember Noah Blom and the Harbor View Community Association have received a copy of this report. Additionally, the tree was posted with information regarding the reforestation request, and postcards were sent to property owners within 500-foot radius of the subject tree. The agenda item has also been noticed according to the Brown Act (72 hours in advance of the meeting at which PB&R Commission considers the item).

ATTACHMENTS:

- Attachment A - Tree Removal Request Application and Harbor View Community Association Board Meeting Minutes
- Attachment B - Dudek Reports
- Attachment C - Tree Removal Report/Review
- Attachment D - Notification Map
- Attachment E - Info Sheet – Bay Laurel 'Saratoga'