



December 18, 2017

Public Works and Gang Reduction Committee
200 N Spring St,
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Protected Tree Ordinance Motion - Council File 03-1459-S3

The Community Forest Advisory Committee (CFAC) applauds Councilmembers Koretz and Bonin for their November 22, 2017 motion put forth at City Council requesting the Urban Forestry Division work with the Planning Department and the Department of Building and Safety to partner with stakeholder, environmental, and community groups to develop recommendations to strengthen the Protected Tree Ordinance (Ord. #177404). CFAC echoes the point made in this motion that, “trees are not being adequately protected and departments are not working well together to protect them,” leading to “accumulating net loss of trees, tree canopy and the accompanying ecosystem services across the City.” This is an urgent issue for the City of Los Angeles that must be addressed before a vital City resource is further diminished. CFAC also echoes the importance of implementing a community engagement process on this important endeavor as set forth in Councilmembers Koretz and Bonin’s motion. CFAC played an instrumental role in developing the original Protected Tree Ordinance. We look forward to working with the Urban Forestry Division, Planning Department, and the Department of Building and Safety to make the necessary updates and changes to ensure we preserve Los Angeles’s trees and the vital ecosystem benefits they provide.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ryan Allen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ryan Allen
Chair, Community Forest Advisory Committee