

# First Draft

## **Motion to Protect Public Right-of-Way Trees on Venice Blvd.**

**Whereas**, there are several areas of public right of way that create a openness and grandeur to Venice Blvd. and include many Native Trees and shade trees (Sycamores, Coast Live Oaks and Tipu Tipuana trees, African Tulip) – comprising many cumulative years of tree growth;

**Whereas**, Venice community members worked together with CALTrans and received considerable grant monies to plant the tree assets now growing all along Venice Blvd, approximately 30 years ago, and are part of what comprises what is likely the largest concentration of Native Trees within Venice (the trees along Venice from Lincoln to Pacific);

**Whereas**, several of these mature trees have been destroyed over the years and at least one property owner at 579 N. Venice Blvd., in 2021, has absorbed public space by building a fence and destroyed at most 4 mature trees of those mentioned above by the community, pursuant to a revocable permit;

**Whereas**, the community's mature trees are community assets and should not be lightly destroyed, even if there are plans to replace them, by private developers or landowners;

**Whereas**, a private developer has purchased 577 N. Venice Blvd. whereupon 4 mature Tipu Tipuana trees and 2 California Sycamore trees are growing, and the risk to the public of loss of both open space and urban canopy through demolition for construction is imminent;

**Therefore**, Venice Neighborhood Council resolves to urge the Los Angeles Planning Department and the Bureau of Engineering, not to issue any more revocable permits to developers or owners along Venice Blvd. for the use of public land that intend to destroy the existing mature trees and to encircle public open space with fences or hedges.

**Therefore**, in the case of 579 Venice Blvd., VNC Board urges the BOE to require the replacement of the exact species of tree planted 30 years,

**Therefore**, the VNC empowers Venice Arbor Committee to write letters to the homeowners along Venice Blvd. to inform them of the public property assets that are growing in front of their homes and that such trees are not to be destroyed.

Dear Homeowner,