



Windsor Square Association

February 3, 2017

**Honorable David E. Ryu
Councilmember, Fourth District
200 North Spring Street, Room 425
Los Angeles, CA 90012**

Dear Councilmember Ryu:

The Windsor Square Association has learned from the Larchmont Village BID of plans to remove a number of Ficus trees on Larchmont Boulevard. I write on behalf of the Association, whose members reside in 1,100 homes immediately surrounding the blocks of Larchmont between Beverly and First. Our constituents have a major stake in adjacent Larchmont Village, including the City's Ficus trees along the Boulevard.

The Ficus trees give character to our neighborhood shopping area, helping to create the village ambiance that makes Larchmont Boulevard so attractive. Vibrant evergreen leaves look good and the trees' canopies provides dense shade to cool and protect the sidewalks. But, of course, the roots affect those same sidewalks. This needs to be addressed.

Our Association believes the City should not be hasty regarding any of these Ficus trees, so as to avoid irreparable harm that would come from removing them. Clearly, a community consensus is needed to plan for the future of Larchmont Village parkway trees. According to an arborist's study commissioned by the BID with CD4 discretionary funds, most of the Larchmont Boulevard Ficus are healthy, mature trees. The BID arborist describes 37 out of 38 of these trees as being in "good" condition. The Larchmont Boulevard Ficus have life

expectancies of up to 20 years, maybe longer. There is plenty of time for stakeholders to proceed thoughtfully to reach a consensus on a good plan.

As such, the Association urges you to notify the BID and the Urban Forestry Division to not seek or issue permits to remove any of these Ficus trees without a strong community consensus. In this regard, our Association is committed to continuing to work expeditiously with the BID, the merchants, and others to develop a good, workable, consensus plan for going forward.

If we act peremptorily to remove these Ficus, the City and its citizens would lose the significant benefits of these mature trees for decades to come.

Very truly yours,



**LAWRENCE N. GUZIN
President
Windsor Square Association**

**cc: Larchmont Village Business Improvement District
c/o Heather Duffy Boylston; H+R PR
200 North Larchmont Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90004**