



**Boyle Heights Neighborhood Council**  
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[www.bhnc.net](http://www.bhnc.net)



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**RE:** Council File 16-0461

**Date:** 2018/April [25]

**BHNC/PLUC Meetings**

April 12, 2018  
 April 25, 2018

On April 25th, 2018 the BHNC Board motioned, discussed and voted to [SUPPORT] the Tree In-Lieu Fee Ordinance, [IF AMENDED] to address the BHNC concerns expressed in this letter.

**Vote Tally:** [ 0 ] recusals, [ 1 ] abstentions, [ 0 ] nays, [ 7 ] ayes, [ 4 ] ineligible

The BHNC Planning & Land Use Committee (PLUC) heard testimony from the applicant, community stakeholder and discussed the item at the April 12th, 2018 BHNC PLUC meeting, recommending to the BHNC Board that they [SUPPORT] a Draft a Letter of Support of the amended [Tree In-Lieu Fee] Ordinance (circa 03-15-2018), pending the letter modification by the Board. (PLUC Vote Tally: [ 0 ] recusals, [ 1 ] abstentions, [ 0 ] nays, [ 3 ] ayes). Citing that the proposed ordinance needs further modification, to include:

1. the 2 mile tree planting radius from the development site as part of the ordinance

While the BHNC believes that equability and the need for more trees in forest deserts is a worthy pursuit. It does not however wish to be deprived of the trees that it needs within its own community to combat environmental losses, health and safety concerns, and the lack of green space.

The 2 miles radius [discussed] at the Public Works and Gang Reduction Committee meeting [on March 28th, 2018], allows for developments/tree planting to stay within an area of Boyle Heights that would benefit the community in which the removal of would of taken place. Nor is this item listed within the Ordinance. We ask that the ordinance be amend to establish the radius to include the immediate area as a real number, favoring the community in which the trees would be removed.

We need more trees, green and green space, within our community, not less. We stand that there has already been expressed by potential developers to abuse this system, where proposed project would eliminate trees in their entirety due to underground changes which would not allow for rooted systems to take place.

Trees need to be planted in the ground. Boyle Heights exists within the East LA Interchange, and as such bares a brunt of hazards caused by daily traffic. Resulting is health issues and soil contamination. Established and mature tree assist in mitigating the environmental impact as the City of Los Angeles moves away from fossil fuels. The loss of trees from our community, even a temporary one, adds to a cumulative effect of lung issues, such as asthma. This is further exasperated by constant development within the community.

That being said, the BHNC does support of the modified ordinance that removes "protected trees" from the menu, an audit of the progress of three and six months, the inclusion of canopy loss equivalents, and with the understanding that the funds would be "solely used to procure, plant and provide water and maintenance for three years;" if amended to include the 2 mile tree planting radius from the development site as part of the ordinance

At the BHNC General Board Meeting on April 25th, 2018 the following motion was set forth: "Motion to support the amended Draft CIS letter on Council File 16-0461 if the ordinance is amended to address the concerns expressed in this letter."

Upon completion of discussion the vote was taken with the motion *passing*.

– Jason Gallegos, Planning & Land Use Committee Chair  
 Boyle Heights Neighborhood Council