

# 24  
1-5-10

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Wrigley Green  
<wrigleyisgoinggreen@hotmail.com>

To <cityclerk@longbeach.gov>  
cc

01/04/2010 02:52 PM

Subject FW: January 5th agenda item 24. 10-0018

Dear Councilmembers,

We at **Wrigley is Going Green (WiGG)** strongly urge you to vote against agenda item 24, Councilmember Schipske's "recommendation to request the City Attorney to assess on a case-by-case basis whether or not removal of a City-owned tree is warranted because of the damage to public and/or private property and the continuing liability to the City."

Lee Fukui, a founding member of WiGG and the 6th district representative on the Tree Advisory Committee, believes this proposition is a huge step backward in our city's tree policy. The Tree Advisory Committee is made up of volunteer representatives from each district that meet with tree removal appellants as well as community members against removals. The Tree Advisory Committee hears from both sides of particular tree issues and holds roundtable discussions with city staff (Public Works and City Arborists) on the best way to approach a tree problem on a case-by-case basis. This process works. All parties are heard and a determination is reached by vote.

We believe that this is not a problem that should be handled by the City Attorney. The City Attorney's office is already overwhelmed with a plethora of important issues and should not be inundated with calls about tree removals. This is an issue that should include all neighborhoods and all citizens that would be affected by such decisions. The City of Long Beach has an existing appeal process that works in favor of both trees and property owners' rights.

Here are some questions we would like you to ask to make an informed decision:

- What has been the cost of liability to the city from tree claims?
- And how much will it cost the City Attorney's office to implement this new policy?
- Who ultimately decides which cases go to the City Attorney?
- What are the costs for removal and the criteria? (There are many costs and consequences to a tree removal that must be taken into consideration.)

Perhaps the best solution is to let people know they can file an appeal to the Tree Advisory Committee when they are not satisfied with the city's initial decision. Therefore, we recommend that the system of appeals to the Tree Advisory Committee that is currently in place remain as it does now.

Again, please vote NO on agenda item 24.

Thank you,  
Lisa Wibroe, Mauna Eichner and Lee Fukui  
Founders of Wrigley is Going Green!