Greetings Madam Mayor and Councilmembers,

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

My last two comments have been on the subject the Urban Forest and a Tree Canopy. As I mentioned before, I know that the Council is currently extremely busy in trying to ameliorate the effects of the Covid crisis on tenants, small businesses and on its own drop in revenues, and that very little immediate action can be expected in the area I am talking about if it requires expenditure of funds. In continuing to address this subject I am trying to convince the Council on the importance of having a meaningful Urban Forest Plan in the future, as well as the importance of increasing West Hollywood's Tree Canopy for the benefit of its current and future residents in the face of inevitably rising temperatures (and longer periods of drought, and shorter periods of more violent rainfalls as far as Southern California is concerned).

1. The concept of the Urban Forest was developed by cities in Australia which were already experiencing dramatic rises in temperature during the past ten years. Their continued work to preserve and to plant thousands of trees underscores the fact that nothing can be accomplished by simply publishing a 'wish list', but rather that such work
requires engagement of the whole community in the goal, a census of the existing trees, replacement and plantings on public space, reform of the destruction of healthy trees, coordination and cooperation of city agencies, etc.

2. The Tree Canopy means the percentage of an area (urban area) covered by mature trees. Cities use an assessed Tree Canopy as a base for planned increase. West Hollywood does not have an assessment of its Tree Canopy, and since such an assessment comes from satellite or aerial mapping, it will probably never get one. Nevertheless, as a mini-climate zone, the City has a robust Tree Canopy. Weho does not have slums or large industrial or warehouse areas. It is predominantly residential, with many private and public space plantings. This is not the point. The point is the future. That is the reason why a progressive city like Pittsburg, which was assessed as having a Tree Canopy of 40% in 2011, continues to work under a 20 year plan (to 2031) to increase its Tree Canopy to 60%.

3. A Tree Canopy consists of mature, large trees. 'Mature' means a tree which is self sufficient and does not need support such as watering. Most trees reach this stage in five to six years. There is no definition for a 'large tree', but it would be reasonable for a tree which is 30 feet high and has a diameter of 25 feet to fit that category. Assuming such mature, large trees, each tree, by itself: 1). has the cooling power of 10 large air conditioners running continuously at full power; 2). can absorb 45 lbs. of dust and other harmful particles per year; 3). can remove 20 tons of carbon dioxide from the air and exchange some of it to oxygen, per year; and a Tree Canopy: 4). will abate runoff during rainfalls and violent storms by breaking up the water; 5). will
help to dampen noise; and 6). does provide a peaceful and calming effect on the mind (shown by actual/statistical studies).

It is for all these reasons (and there are others) that the destruction of a single healthy large tree is so counterproductive to the future of West Hollywood and to the welfare of the residents of Weho.

Thank you for your attention.

George T. Bujarski