

TO: Dear Director Nuru and Carla Short, Bureau of Urban Forestry, San Francisco Public Works

FROM: The Market Octavia Community Advisory Committee

The Market Octavia Community Advisory Committee is writing to support the Hayes Valley Neighborhood Association's (HVNA) work with Public Works to replace, restore, and maintain the trees and plantings that define Octavia Boulevard.

Opening in 2005, then Director Ed Lee promised Public Works would maintain the Boulevard, and keep it beautiful. The reality since 2005, is different:

- Trees have not been pruned or watered, leading to **subsequent high mortality rates**.
- Watering systems are broken and not repaired, and the power to the watering systems have been vandalized for powering electronic devices.
- No weeding, trash collection.
- Median understory plantings dead and not replaced.

In early 2016, HVNA requested replacement and restoration of the side median plantings. Though Director Nuru instructed his staff in October, 2017 to begin this work at once, only a staff email showing a suggested list of plantings was sent, and there has been no follow up. In spring of 2017, HVNA members collaborated with Public Works teams to weed and prepare the median beds and sidewalk trees for replacement irrigation and plantings to follow to make it easier to replace and restore/replace the trees. After several meetings, no further action was taken, and as of today, the promised irrigation system replacement, and planting restoration on the side medians has yet to be implemented. Only the power boxes have been secured against further vandalism after HVNA brought the problem to Public Works' attention.

The MO CAC support's HVNA's request to Public Works' on the maintenance needed for the Boulevard and ask for an implementation schedule on the requests that were made at the meetings mentioned above. These should be prioritized, due to concerns of pedestrian, cyclist and driver safety, as over 90,000 cars travel on the Boulevard daily:

- New drip irrigation with timer system
- Final list of plants, approved by HVNA
- Plantings, so volunteers can be recruited
- Maintenance and tree care for all Boulevard trees and plantings

The voters of San Francisco agreed that taking down the Central Freeway should be replaced with a green, well maintained boulevard. Since the greenery helps slow traffic and increase safety, restoration must be a priority.