

Communication from Public

Name: South LA Tree Coalition

Date Submitted: 05/02/2023 10:08 AM

Council File No: 22-0899

Comments for Public Posting: The South LA Tree (SLAT) Coalition supports this motion and staff recommendation to declare the subject property at 1156 S. Hobart Boulevard an Historic-Cultural Monument. SLAT has been aware of the rich history and cultural significance of this property, including the English oak tree (*Quercus robur*) for quite some time. After winning the gold medal for the high jump event during the 1936 Berlin Olympics, Cornelius Johnson returned to his childhood home in Los Angeles and planted the English oak presented to him, and all gold medal winners, by the people of Germany. To this day, this magnificent tree continues to thrive here in Los Angeles, on Hobart Avenue in Koreatown. SLAT understands the power of cultural monuments such as this, and in the spirit of the Cornelius Johnson Oak story our organization launched an initiative in 2022 to commemorate the legacy with a forthcoming tree project and dedication in collaboration with City and community partners. We look forward to celebrating this historic-cultural monument, and the shared living histories of communities across the City by continuing to lead by example preserving honored and significant cultural resources for future generations. We thank you for your consideration, Theresa Maysonet & Robin Gilliam South LA Tree (SLAT) Coalition southlatrees@gmail.com P.O. Box 19068 Los Angeles, CA 90019 About SLAT The South LA Tree (SLAT) Coalition is a grassroots community group founded by women of color that developed in 2021 in response to the removal of a grove of Protected Sycamore trees in South LA as a result of a development project. Since then, the SLAT Coalition has worked to prioritize the preservation, protection and growth of the urban forest and its tree canopy in South LA – a designated tree-poor region of the City. The SLAT Coalition works to grow local awareness and interest in trees as part of larger efforts to strengthen environmental justice, climate resiliency, biodiversity, and community wellness.