

Dan and to whom it may concern,

I am writing to request the removal of the boulevard tree at 1019-1023 -1025 Caledonia St. La Crosse. I agree with Mr. Vang that the tree has surpassed its useful life as a beneficial tree on a boulevard. When the tree was planted there most likely were not restrictions of the types of trees that are allowed on boulevards. Trees like this created the need for those restricted tree species. This tree is way oversized for the boulevard. It has heaved the sidewalks and caused damage to the sidewalks and that damage has been repaired and paid for by Mr. Vang's mother and myself. That damage will happen again if the tree is not removed causing the unsafe walking conditions that are currently resolved.

Due to the size and species of tree it is very, very unattractive and out of sync with this updated block. The city would love to see everyone in the city expend the amount of money, effort, energy and pride that has caused the change from absolute blight to absolute excellence on our block. Trees were cut down on this block over 5 years ago before I purchased my blighted property and none were replanted. I have planted 2 beautiful, size appropriate, Honey Crisp apple trees in my front yard as well as additional landscaping. Mr. Vang and his mother have spent countless hours and dollars on their landscaping. We are not against trees. We want new trees. We just are asking for boulevard appropriate trees. If this tree were to go over on our houses or on a car or on the church across the street it would do massive damage to any of the structures and would kill anyone it would land on. The tree is lopsided and ugly and drops goobers of sticky slim on your car, even you only park near it or under it for an hour. Nasty, terrible goo that is horrendous to clean off. Therefore rendering 4 or 5 spots below the tree unusable. I like to park in shade, so I park under it occasionally and suffer the consequences. I would like to park there or have my renters be able to park there, in the shade, just in the shade of an appropriate, user friendly tree.

I have been a landlord in La Crosse for about 6 years and in general for over 20 years. I have re-habbed 3 homes in La Crosse, increasing the taxable value on all 3. I have had very disappointing interactions with the city also, just as Mr. Vang has. It makes me not want to be involved in land ownership in La Crosse. I currently own 3 properties in Minnesota and am moving my real estate holdings that direction. I would like to own my rental property on Caledonia St. for many more years so that I know my renters, who have resided at that address for over 30 years, yes, over 30 years, have the best landlord they can get. Just as Mrs. Vang has resided in her home for over 30 years. My renters experienced a slum lord before me and tolerated a lot of substandard living conditions because of that. They really appreciate all I have done for them. They would appreciate a clean tree on the boulevard that they can park under and receive shade, without goobers from.

We are not asking for a lot, but we are asking for what is right. Even though an arborist said the tree was healthy does not make the tree an appropriate tree. If it is not taken down now or in the short future it will have to be taken down at some point. In this case it would be less expensive to take it down now, then to let it damage more property and then have to be taken down.

So please, support the citizens and business owners on the north side who are really working hard to improve the neighborhood and remove this tree. I will plant 2, boulevard trees at my expense after the tree is removed. Currently the tree would use too much of the available water in that area for 2 new trees to survive.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely Laurie Simmonds