

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Supervisor Rafael Mandelman calls for hearing on city's street tree maintenance program**

SAN FRANCISCO — One year after the City assumed maintenance responsibilities for nearly 100,000 trees through the Street Tree SF program following passage of Proposition E in November 2016, District 8 Supervisor Rafael Mandelman is calling for a hearing to better understand the program's initial impacts, challenges, and successes.

"This hearing is a chance to engage with city departments to make sure we're implementing Prop E in a way that fulfills the City's new responsibility, while addressing neighbor concerns and furthering the conversation on the ways in which we can expand the canopy," Mandelman said. "We see this as a great opportunity to help educate our residents about this new program."

Of the more than 400 calls and emails his office has received from constituents since July, street trees are the number two issue of concern after homelessness. "One out of every 10 calls our office has received is related to street trees and their maintenance or removal," noted Mandelman.

An initial census commissioned by the Department of Public Works found that 6,000 trees were in need of removal. In year one, approximately 2,500 of those trees had been removed, while more than 17,000 trees were pruned, data showed.

Mandelman pointed to a range of reactions from his constituents, with some taking issue with trees labeled as "dangerous" and requiring immediate removal and others frustrated with what they see as problematic trees that are not being taken care of fast enough.

"Ensuring that San Francisco's neighborhoods enjoy a healthy, growing and well-maintained tree canopy is something previous District 8 Supervisors have championed, and I look forward to carrying on that tradition," Mandelman said.

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