

Ficus Trees & Common Sense

The decision to remove the Trump National ficus hedge was legally correct and proper. The applicable terms and conditions clearly stated that they should not be there. However, there is more to the story if one considers common sense to be a criterion. Take a close look at the 2 photos in the PV News and you might decide that the hedge provides a better backdrop from that angle than the now exposed buildings, etc. Perhaps unintentionally, the slightly different perspectives of the photos distort the view of what appears to be Inspiration Point, the ocean and the skyline although none of these things has changed. How the PV News can proclaim that there is a vast improvement from this viewpoint is difficult to understand.

Resident Jessica Leeds is a very nice lady who deserves to feel vindicated but if you stand on her property you get several interesting views. The first is that there are any numbers of trees, houses, etc. interrupting the southwest view. Also, if the huge tree belonging to Trump National were laced, etc. it would open up more view than the removal of the ficus trees does. This area of Portuguese Bend is in general overrun with untrimmed non-native trees and bushes. Legally, the height of any vegetation on the Trump property is severely limited by the reference to the "southern berm". Nevertheless, it does appear that some compromise might have been negotiated but apparently Trump National made no offer to address all of these issues in return for some form of property line view adjustment. The real driving force may have been the folks who oppose any non-native (by their definition) plants. That may make it impossible for Trump National to replant the trees on any property in RPV due to the scope of the NCCP manifest.

Was there any excuse for Councilman Long's petulant Scrooge comments about Donald Trump? Was there any legal reason for Trump National to violate the original temporary use permit conditions? Will Trump National retaliate by returning to the originally approved use of some of the land? Does anyone in City Hall or Trumpville ever apply common sense to some of these issues – remember, the flagpole fiasco still remains unresolved and don't forget Councilman Long's comment that flags are generally flown by totalitarian regimes? Or, have they met the enemy and they are them?

Don Reeves