

## Jaclyn Norton

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**From:** Judith Herzfeld <herzfeld@brandeis.edu>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 16, 2022 4:56 PM  
**To:** Jaclyn Norton  
**Subject:** Yes on a Temporary Tree-Cutting Moratorium & Yes on the Councilors' Tree Protections

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Members of the Programs&Services Committee,

I am writing in support of stronger protections for trees in Newton and support a temporary moratorium while the ordinance changes are discussed and finalized. The City-Council-proposed ordinance will strengthen protections and include an environmental mitigation payment for cutting healthy, mature trees that are not dangerous.

Cutting healthy, mature trees negatively impacts the local neighborhood, the city, and the region, as well as the global climate emergency. Cutting even a few trees affects the local heat index; neighborhood air pollution, storm water drainage, and road quality; and local public health.

These effects cost the City's taxpayers—not just property owners but also people who rent, work, shop, dine, and do business in Newton. If individual property owners seek to cut mature, healthy, not-dangerous trees on their land, they should have to make a climate mitigation payment to offset the monetary, environmental, and health costs to the community.

Like air and water, whether trees are properly stewarded will make or break a community. So Newton residents need to be notified when owners of nearby properties apply to cut healthy, not-dangerous trees. Local residents are most affected by tree-cutting, so we need to have the opportunity to speak in the permit review process and have opportunity to appeal to the City Councilors who live in our ward and know the local conditions.

I urge you to enact a temporary moratorium and then to vote in favor the City-Council-proposed ordinance changes to require an environmental mitigation payment for cutting healthy, not-dangerous trees; to protect trees 6-inch-DBH and larger on all lots; and to give voice to the local people most impacted by tree cutting.

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