

Jaclyn Norton

From: Robert Horsburgh Jr <rhorsbu@bu.edu>
Sent: Sunday, September 18, 2022 5:11 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,

Mayor Fuller - I am writing because, as a physician and public health professional, I am acutely aware of the strong relationship between neighborhood tree cover and many important indices of personal and public health. The utmost care must be taken to both minimize cutting of health trees in Newton and maximize efforts to replace any that are lost. The current rules about exemptions for cutting trees do not ensure a good outcome for the city. Therefore, I support the increased protection for the trees in Newton, including the temporary moratorium while new ordinance changes are discussed and until they are finalized. I strongly support the City-Council-proposed ordinance to protect all trees 6-inches DBH (in diameter at breast height) and larger across all properties in Newton. Moreover, penalties for flouting the law and environmental mitigation payment for cutting healthy, mature trees not deemed to be dangerous must be implemented.

We, the residents, need to have the opportunity to participate 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 and to give voice to the local people most impacted by tree cutting.

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