



Date: December 18, 2023
To: City Council
From: Councilors Andrea Kelley and Deborah Crossley
Re: Amendments to Tree Preservation Ordinance

1. Proposed amendment to allow removal of invasive species without requiring replacement or fee

Sec. 21-85. Tree replacement.

(e) Invasive Tree Exemption: This section 21-85 shall not apply to Invasive Trees that are removed pursuant to a tree permit.

2. Proposed amendment to prohibit the planting of an invasive species as a replacement tree

Sec. 21-85. Tree Replacement.

(a) Standards: A person who has removed a protected tree shall replace such tree within eighteen (18) months from the date the tree permit is issued, or prior to transfer of property ownership, whichever comes first, and in accordance with the following standards:

(1) A replacement tree shall be of the same or similar species as the removed tree or such other species as deemed advisable by the tree warden. Invasive tree species, as determined by the Tree Warden, shall not be replanted as replacement trees. Trees planted as hedges shall not count as replacement trees unless otherwise permitted by the Tree Warden.

3. Proposed amendment regarding single and two family residential

Sec. 21-81. Definitions.

Exempt Tree: A Protected Tree that a permit applicant seeks to remove that does not meet the Landmark or Legacy tree designation that is located on a single- or two-family residential occupied lot where no exterior construction beyond the setbacks of the lot as required by the Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 30 of the Revised Ordinances, is presently underway or planned to take place during the 24 months from the date of the permit application.

Sec. 21-85. Tree Replacement.

(d) Exempt Trees: This section 21-85 shall not apply to Exempt Trees that are removed pursuant to an exemption permit. If construction beyond the setbacks of the lot as required by the Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 30 of the Revised Ordinances, takes place on a lot within the 24 months following the date of the exemption permit application, the current property owner will be required to comply with the replacement requirements of this section 21-85.

Sincerely,
Councilor Andrea Kelley
Councilor Deborah Crossley