

September 23, 2019

Planning and Sustainability Commission
1900 SW 4th Ave, Suite 7100
Portland, OR 97201

RE: Large Tree Amendment Extension Proposal (*Proposed Draft for amendments to Title 11, Trees, Chapter 11.50, Trees in Development Situations, Tree Preservation Requirements for Private Trees.*).

Dear Commissioner Schulz and members of the PSC,

At the Urban Forestry Commission's upcoming October 17 meeting, we will be holding public testimony and then voting to either support or decline support for the extension of the large tree amendment—the same amendment for which PSC will be holding a hearing tomorrow. Though a declaration to support or decline support this particular proposal by UFC would be pre-decisional at this point, we would like to highlight our past involvement with this issue.

In 2016, UFC worked with the Bureau of Parks & Recreation and then-Commissioner-in-charge Amanda Fritz, to create and enact the current amendment.

Earlier this year, we contacted Bureau Development Services Director Rebecca Esau, requesting information about payments collected as a result of this amendment and other data we believed would inform us if this amendment has achieved its goals. BDS staff subsequently researched and presented its findings to the UFC.

These findings, we believed, were inconclusive for several reasons. Among these reasons was the short time period covered by the results. For this reason, we were not ready to ask for a permanent inclusion of this amendment into Title 11. Because we believe the results were promising, we voted at our July 18, 2019 meeting to request that BDS and PP&R work together with their commissioners to put a vote for such an extension before the City Council.

Extension of this large tree amendment is a stated priority for 2019 of the UFC. At our October meeting, we will hold a hearing and review if the current proposal meets our goals then vote accordingly to either support or not.

Sincerely,


Daniel Newberry, Policy Committee Chair
Urban Forestry Commission

Cc: Vivek Shandas, UFC Chair; Jenn Cairo, City Forester