



MEMORANDUM

To: Planning and Zoning Commission

From: Carrie Caylor, Director of Development

Date: October 1, 2020

Re: Residential Tree Canopy Protection Ordinance

After the Planning and Zoning meeting on September 2, 2020, I worked to develop updates for the Residential Tree Canopy Protection Ordinance, that will streamline and clarify some of the requirements. I reached out to several arborists, and on September 15th, was able to review the ordinance with former City of Austin Arborist Michael Embesi, currently with Bartlett Tree Experts. His expertise of developing and enforcing tree ordinances, as well as working as an arborist in the private sector was helpful for developing my recommended changes to the ordinance. Those recommendations are as follows:

- 1) Amend the Residential Tree Canopy Protection Ordinance to require tree surveys to include all trees on a residential lot with a diameter of 12" or greater at 4.5' off the ground.

If the diameter of "protected" size is amended, require that all trees of that protected size designation, regardless of species, be included on tree surveys.

- 2) Amend the Residential Tree Canopy Protection Ordinance to allow that if a property owner or resident can provide evidence of disease mitigation by a licensed arborist, and the removal of the tree is still required after treatment, the fee for tree removal shall be set at \$35.00. The tree must be replaced with a species from the replacement list, but the replacement size requirement shall be 2".

This keeps with the spirit of the code, which is to protect the tree canopy, but reduces the burden of replacement, and encourages property owners and residents to make best efforts to treat existing trees when possible, rather than just removing them for cost reasons.

- 3) Amend the Residential Tree Canopy Ordinance to require that tree removal permits be posted on site, either on a construction board, if the property is under construction, or in the dashboard of the arborist's vehicle if the property is not under construction permit.

This creates consistency for enforcement by the police department.

- 4) Require that all wounds on red and white oak species be painted as they are trimmed.

This is consistent with best practices guidelines for Oak Wilt mitigation.

