Resolution Supporting Tree Protections in DC Zoning Regulations

Whereas, ANC3B recognizes the importance of the tree canopy to preserving the residential, commercial, and cultural vitality of the District of Columbia;

Whereas, the zoning regulations governing new development are crucial to preserving the health of the tree canopy but are insufficient as currently written;

Therefore be it resolved: ANC3B endorses the following recommendations for improving the zoning code:

1. Definitions – Use of a uniform set of definitions so that the Urban Forestry Administration’s (UFA) guidelines and definitions apply to residential, institutional, commercial, and DC government new construction projects and throughout the entire permitting process.

2. Applications for new construction- Zoning regulations should require plans to depict accurately all trees at risk from construction activity prior to permit review and approval. Plans should show accurately each tree’s size and Critical Root Zone according to the uniform set definitions.

3. Trees on adjacent land – Plans for new construction must show trees on all adjacent private and public land whose Critical Root Zones and/or crowns would be impacted by construction activity and the completed project.

4. Tree protection process-

- The Urban Forestry Administration (UFA) should be required to review final plans of before the Zoning Administrator approves them.

- Tree Protection Plans submitted with plans for new construction should be competed by an ISA-certified arborist. They should include plans for maintaining the trees for a period of time as determined by the Urban Forestry Administration to ensure the trees long term health.

5. The Zoning Administrator should rely on the expertise of the UFA in interpreting regulations as they apply to residential, commercial, institutional, diplomatic and government construction projects to ensure timely protection of endangered trees.
6. **Modifications to plans** – The UFA should be required to review any modifications to plans after initial approval.

7. **Penalties** - The period of delay for the granting of a permit for new construction following the removal or cutting of trees that would have been prohibited by the current regulations should remain seven (7) years as incentive to abide by the regulations.

8. **Regulations** applicable to tree protection should be located in a Tree Protection Chapter of the Zoning Code Regulations.

**This Resolution was properly moved, seconded, and passed unanimously at the public meeting of ANC3B held on September 11, 2014.**

Brian A. Cohen, Chairman

Joe Fiorillo, Secretary

September 11, 2014