

Sandra P. Gohn  
4811 Keswick Road  
Baltimore, MD 21210  
January 19, 2024

Dear Councilwoman McCray:

As a TreeBaltimore-trained Tree Keeper and Weed Warrior, and a Master Gardener, I encourage you to support Council Bill 23-0465, Tree Removal on City Property – Permits and Procedure. This bill will codify actions and policies exactly as they are currently practiced.

Baltimore's public trees are valuable resources that belong to the residents of our city. When healthy public trees are removed, the city suffers a loss. This bill will establish standards and mitigation requirements that must be met before permits are issued to remove trees along public streets or city parks. Additionally, these standards and requirements can reduce the overall number of trees removed.

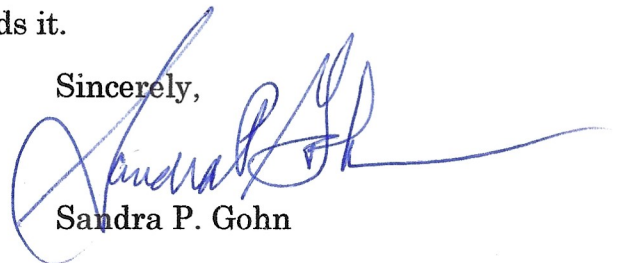
This bill directly supports two prongs of the Baltimore City's 2019 Sustainability Plan designed to preserve the city's existing tree canopy: "*Adopt a tree ordinance to preserve trees and forests on public and private property;*" and "*Classify trees and forests as public infrastructure, similar to (and as valued as) sidewalks and street lights.*" Both actions are key to reaching the city's overall goal of 40% tree canopy coverage by 2037.

Trees clean our water and air. They cool our neighborhoods and provide much-needed shade during hot summer months. (See, for example,

.)  
They create habitat for wildlife, help reduce climate change and ease our minds during times of stress. Trees are valuable assets that need our protection and care.

Please support bill 23-0465! Our city needs it.

Sincerely,



Sandra P. Gohn