

Peters, Matthew (City Council)

From: Steven Frantz <srfrantz@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2020 4:14 PM
To: Clarke, MaryPat (City Council); Reisinger, Edward (City Council); Sneed, Shannon (City Council); Pinkett, Leon2 (City Council); Stokes, Robert (City Council); Bullock, John (City Council); Peters, Matthew (City Council); Costello, Eric (City Council)
Cc: Ellen's Mail
Subject: Fwd: Comments re: CB20-0546 Natural Resources - Forest and Tree Conservation
Categories: Blue Category

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To Chair Eric Costello and members of the Baltimore City Council Judiciary Committee:

I am writing in support of Council Bill 20-0546 Natural Resources - Forest and Tree Conservation, as you consider it on Tuesday, August 4th.

As a resident of Mt. Washington and a member of a committee that is forming a Friends of Northwest Park group, I am aware of how important tree canopy is to our neighborhoods and parks.

This update to City regulations will help curb future tree canopy loss due to development and build toward a greener, healthier city. The reasons to support this important legislation include:

- o A healthy city has a tree canopy of at least 40%. Baltimore City currently has a 28% tree canopy. In order to continue to grow our city's tree canopy, we must protect our existing trees.
- o Trees clean our air and water, reduce flooding, lower temperatures and energy bills, improve public health and social cohesion, and beautify our neighborhoods.
- o Changing the forest conservation triggers to 5,000 s.f. from 20,000 s.f. will protect more forests and preserve the city's tree canopy.

Bringing the City's Code and associated guidance into alignment with the City's existing environmental regulations and into compliance with state law would harmonize conflicting regulations and focus action on improving the size and quality of the tree canopy in the City.

As an involved and concerned resident of Baltimore, I urge you to pass this bill into law.

Thanks and Regards,

Steven Frantz
Founding Committee member, Friends of Northwest Park

Peters, Matthew (City Council)

From: srsparks@verizon.net
Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2020 11:50 AM
To: Costello, Eric (City Council); 'Sarah Lord'; Reisinger, Edward (City Council); Sneed, Shannon (City Council); Clarke, MaryPat (City Council); Pinkett, Leon2 (City Council); Stokes, Robert (City Council); Bullock, John (City Council); Peters, Matthew (City Council)
Cc: 'Elliot Weidow'; 'Zoe Gensheimer'; 'Justin Bowers'; 'Frederic C Chalfant'; 'Amanda Cunningham'; 'Jill Jonnes'; anne.gilbert@maryland.gov; Bowers, Ashley (BCRP); 'Lauren Andersen'; 'Marilyn Fisher'; 'Zoe Clarkwest'; 'Bob fbBlack'; Murphy, Charles (BCRP); 'Charles Brown'; Dihle, Erik (BCRP); 'Jenny Katz'; 'Katie Lautar'; 'Matt Rescott'; 'Ray Iturralde'; 'Sean O'Maille'; 'Dustin Lee'; 'Krismir Thomas'; 'Rebecca Feldberg'; 'Catherine Woolley'; 'Sylvester Myers'; Martello, Ted (BCRP); 'Loretha Myers - Chinquapin Run Forest Patch'; 'Dick'; 'Jennifer Aiosa'; 'Jennifer Robinson'; 'Nell Strachan'; 'Bridget McCusker'; 'Jack Lattimore'; 'Zachary White'; 'brenda pinkney'; 'ela carpenter'; 'Gerrie Okwesa'; Draddy, Anne (DOP)
Subject: RE: CB 20-0546 Natural Resources - Forest and Tree Conservation
Categories: Blue Category

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Dear Chairman Costello and Judiciary Committee,

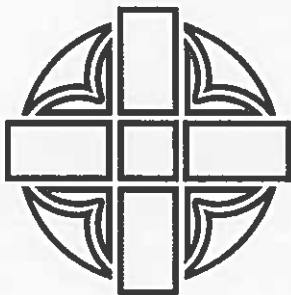
Re: Support CB 20-0546 Natural Resources—Forest and Tree Conservation

Importantly, CB20-0546 reflects over two years of in-depth research into best practices nation-wide to correct the City Code and Forest Conservation Sustainability Manual. The ordinance will codify current forest conservation policies and align City environmental regulations to comply with State law.

The Ordinance will benefit the City's public health by protecting street trees and woodlands in both public and private spaces. CB 20-0546 is critical to maintaining and growing the overall urban tree canopy for a more livable Baltimore. Fully implementing the ordinance will result in greater equity greening Baltimore neighborhoods. Baltimore City would become an urban beacon for forest and tree conservation.

I urge City Council's strong and enthusiastic support for CB 20-0546. Thank you.

Sandy Sparks
Baltimore City Forestry Board Member since 1988
2942 Guilford Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21218



MEMORIAL EPISCOPAL

JUSTICE FOCUSED • JESUS CENTERED

To Members of the Baltimore City Council Judiciary Committee-

As Rector of Memorial Episcopal Church and a member of The Climate Reality Project Leadership Corps, I am writing in support of the so-called Tree Ordinance bill that will be discussed before your committee this Tuesday, August 4th. My Creation Care Team Lead, Dick Williams, joins me in urging you to pass this bill into law.

The proposed Bill provides critical protections to existing tree canopy throughout the city and for mitigation banking of lost tree canopy so that the city's own goal of 40% tree canopy has a better chance of being achieved. There are other gains. But, let us add that we are especially cognizant of the lack of urban tree canopy in disinvested and underserved West Baltimore neighborhoods near Bolton Hill where the urban heat island effects higher summertime temperatures and greater public health risks. Hopefully there will soon be legislation to help alleviate this injustice across the city.

There will no doubt be opposition to this legislation by developers and others who are worried about the additional costs and burdens put on those seeking to improve the economic reality of our city. They will say this will cost jobs and lower tax revenue. I hope the council will remember that what makes this city livable, and what makes neighborhoods desirable is community and community space. Especially during the COVID 19 pandemic I am very grateful for the tree coverage in Bolton Hill. But neighborhoods to our west are not so lucky, and this pandemic has not been so livable for those who don't have cool safe places to relax and recreate outside.

Let's make Baltimore a livable city for everyone.

Rev. Grey Maggiano
Rector
Memorial Episcopal Church

Dick Williams
Creation Care Team
Memorial Episcopal Church

Peters, Matthew (City Council)

From: Sarah Lord <fennofarm@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 3, 2020 7:28 PM
To: Costello, Eric (City Council); Reisinger, Edward (City Council); Sneed, Shannon (City Council); Clarke, MaryPat (City Council); Pinkett, Leon2 (City Council); Stokes, Robert (City Council); Bullock, John (City Council); Peters, Matthew (City Council)
Cc: Elliot Weidow; Zoe Gensheimer; Justin Bowers; Frederic C Chalfant; Amanda Cunningham; Jill Jonnes; Sandy Sparks; anne.gilbert@maryland.gov; Bowers, Ashley (BCRP); Lauren Andersen; Marilyn Fisher; Zoe Clarkwest; Bob fbBlack; Murphy, Charles (BCRP); Charles Brown; Dihle, Erik (BCRP); Jenny Katz; Katie Lautar; Matt Rescott; Ray Iturralde; Sean O'Maille; Dustin Lee; Krismir Thomas; Sarah Lord; Rebecca Feldberg; Catherine Woolley; Sylvester Myers; Martello, Ted (BCRP); Loretha Myers - Chinquapin Run Forest Patch; Dick; Jennifer Aiosa; Jennifer Robinson; Nell Strachan; Bridget McCusker; Jack Lattimore; Zachary White; brenda pinkney; ela carpenter; Gerrie Okwesa; Draddy, Anne (DOP)
Subject: CB 20-0546 Natural Resources - Forest and Tree Conservation
Categories: Blue Category

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Dear Chairman Costello and Ladies and Gentlemen of the City Council's Judiciary Committee,

I write to ask for your support of CB 20-0546 as you consider it on Tuesday, August 4th.

As you know, careful expertise has gone into the formation of this bill, which necessarily corrects the City Code and Manual to reflect and codify current tree and forest conservation policies — to square City environmental regulations and to comply with Maryland state law. This painstaking regulatory update is also accomplished in the service of a vital goal: to continue to build toward 40% tree coverage over Baltimore.

A city with healthy air and sufficient shade is a city with a 40% urban tree canopy (or more). At present, Baltimore's UTC is calculated by the US Forest Service to be 28%.

Since this is up from 27%, we are quite proud of our forestry department's determined accomplishment under Erik Dihle and Reginald Moore. Nonetheless there remain many neighborhoods where healthy tree shade and air exchange are nowhere near 28%, let alone 40%. Baltimore's tree coverage deficit is a social equity issue in need of redress. Among the goals of this bill is the continued increase of Baltimore's urban tree canopy in communities where tree planting

and maintenance are urgently needed. No less important is conservation of the existing UTC ("the lungs of the city") which greens our parks and neighborhoods.

CB 20-0546 is a bill to be proud of; please support it enthusiastically.

With best wishes,



Sarah F. Lord

Baltimore City Forest Conservancy District Board

Flowering Tree Trails of Baltimore, Inc.

Friends of Gwynns Falls Leakin Park

Peters, Matthew (City Council)

From: Jerome Hamilton Jr <jeromehamiltonjr7@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 3, 2020 11:10 PM
To: Reisinger, Edward (City Council); Sneed, Shannon (City Council); Clarke, MaryPat (City Council); Pinkett, Leon2 (City Council); Stokes, Robert (City Council); Bullock, John (City Council); Peters, Matthew (City Council); Costello, Eric (City Council)
Subject: Comments re: CB 20-0546 Natural Resources - Forest and Tree Conservation
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Salutations. My name is Jerome Hamilton Jr., and I am a resident in Baltimore City. I help run a program with other seniors at a Baltimore City Public High School that informs children about Climate Change and preservation of their environment. Firstly, I would like to thank the committee for holding this hearing and taking this issue seriously. The conservation of resources, especially trees, is vital for a city like Baltimore to thrive. By their nature, trees clean our air and water and reduce flooding. They also beautifully decorate our neighborhoods. As someone who has lived in this city for nearly two decades, seeing downtrodden and barren neighborhoods have been part of my experience. Seeing these neighborhoods close to places where trees could be instead of industrial buildings or new homes doesn't make it better. We can't allow ourselves to expand at the expense of a valuable resource like trees. This needs to be incorporated into our plan for making a better Baltimore because it WILL make a better Baltimore. This reason drives me to dedicate time for educating our children on the environment. It inspires me to plant gardens in the schools and neighborhoods that make us the greatest city in America. It gives me hope that our leaders will see us making a push for a healthy, thriving green city that Baltimore shall become. I urge you not to just hear our cries, but act on them. Let's get this ball rolling. I would like to sincerely thank you all for your time, and I urge you to update the city code to help conserve our forests

--

Jerome Hamilton Jr.
Baltimore Polytechnic Student Government Association
Secretary
Email: jeromehamiltonjr7@gmail.com

Uta Allers
603 Scott Street
Baltimore, MD 21230
Uta.Allers@gmail.com
202-906-0957

To Baltimore City Council Committee
on Updating the Forest Conservation Code
Council Bill 20-0546 Natural Resources

Dear Council Members and Mr. Peters,

I am a Greater Baltimore Sierra Club member and a Baltimore City resident.

Thank your hosting the hearing on August 4 and for taking the issue seriously.

I love our parks, forests and tree canopy. As an avid hiker and cyclists, I go through Carroll Park several times a week, as well as riding through Gwynn Falls Trail (when construction permits) and Leakin Park. Being aware of the beauty of trees and the health benefits of parks and forests, I ask that the Council to commit itself to updating the Forest Conservation Program and establish rules to minimize tree loss due to development. At only a 28% tree canopy, this city has some catching up to do for the 40% considered the standard for health to the citizens and the environment.

Thank you for your time and please accept the updates to the city code to conserve our forests.

Sincerely,

Uta Allers

Peters, Matthew (City Council)

From: DWGA <dwgreenassoc@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2020 8:47 AM
To: Costello, Eric (City Council); Reisinger, Edward (City Council); Sneed, Shannon (City Council); Clarke, MaryPat (City Council); Pinkett, Leon2 (City Council); Stokes, Robert (City Council); Bullock, John (City Council); Peters, Matthew (City Council)
Subject: Comments re: CB 20-0546 Natural Resources - Forest and Tree Conservation

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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To the Members of the Baltimore City Council Judiciary Committee-

The Steering Committee of BALTIMORE • Blue+Green+Just has sent the Bill, a flyer prepared by the Forestry Board, Blue Water Baltimore and Baltimore Green Space and other information about it to its many coalition stakeholders, both non-profits and individuals.

We've asked they consider testifying in favor of the Bill through their organizations or individually. Steering Committee members have been doing similarly, in writing.

But, let us add here that we are especially cognizant of the lack of urban tree canopy in disinvested and underserved neighborhoods throughout the city where the urban heat island effects higher summertime temperatures and greater public health risks. Hopefully there will soon be legislation to help alleviate this injustice city-wide.

With regards on behalf of the Steering Committee,

Dick Williams



<https://www.baltimorebluegreenjust.org/>
<https://www.facebook.com/BlueGreenJust/>

Peters, Matthew (City Council)

From: Tanaira Cullens <cullenstanaira@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2020 9:02 AM
To: Stokes, Robert (City Council); Pinkett, Leon2 (City Council); Clarke, MaryPat (City Council); Sneed, Shannon (City Council); Reisinger, Edward (City Council); Costello, Eric (City Council); Bullock, John (City Council); Peters, Matthew (City Council)
Subject: Comments re: CB 20-0546 Natural Resources - Forest and Tree Conservation

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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To Members of the Baltimore City Council Judiciary Committee,

As a poet, I believe trees are the history keepers of the earth. As a scientist, I believe that trees are necessary for the health and safety of our urban communities. As a long time Baltimore resident, I believe that trees are increasingly necessary, not only to beautify public spaces but to provide reprieve from the urban heat islands that have developed because of our proclivity towards using brick, concrete and asphalt materials in development.

I am writing in support of the Tree Ordinance Bill that will be discussed at your upcoming meeting on Tuesday August 4th. Baltimore's residents deserve the chance to see a decrease in some of its health disparities related to poor air quality, we deserve the chance to stay cool in an ever warming climate, and we deserve the chance to enjoy the shade and the beauty of a tree planted with intentionality without it being threatened.

As Baltimore City moves towards its goal of having a 40% canopy cover, it is my hope that you won't find it difficult to imagine a greener, cooler, healthier city by protecting our current and future urban canopy from development. I was one year old the last time Baltimore enacted legislation to protect our trees from encroaching development. I'll be 30 this fall, it's time for a change. Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Tanaira Cullens



Virus-free. www.avast.com

Peters, Matthew (City Council)

From: Northeast Community <necoemail@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2020 8:57 AM
To: Costello, Eric (City Council); Reisinger, Edward (City Council); Sneed, Shannon (City Council); Clarke, MaryPat (City Council); Pinkett, Leon2 (City Council); Stokes, Robert (City Council); Bullock, John (City Council); Peters, Matthew (City Council)
Cc: Shane Bryan; Gail Sunderman; Loretha Myers; Paige, Corey (City Council)
Subject: CB 20-0546 Natural Resources- Forest and Tree Conservation
Categories: Blue Category

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Dear Members of the City Council's Judiciary Committee,

The Northeast Community Organization (NECO) is an umbrella group dedicated to supporting, assisting and serving the communities in North East Baltimore. NECO is also a Baltimore Blue Green Just Stakeholder and we write to ask for your support of CB 20-0546 as you consider it on Tuesday, August 4th.

Careful expertise has gone into the formation of this bill, which necessarily corrects the City Code and Manual to reflect and codify current tree and forest conservation policies — to square City environmental regulations and to comply with Maryland state law. This painstaking regulatory update is also accomplished in the service of a vital goal: to continue to build toward 40% tree coverage over Baltimore.

A city with healthy air and sufficient shade is a city with a 40% urban tree canopy (or more). At present, Baltimore's UTC is calculated by the US Forest Service to be 28%.

Baltimore's tree coverage deficit is a social equity issue in need of correction. Among the goals of this bill is the continued increase of Baltimore's urban tree canopy in communities where tree planting and maintenance are urgently needed. No less important is conservation of the existing UTC which greens our parks and neighborhoods.

CB 20-0546 is an important bill, please support it.

Regards,

Nia Govan
Corresponding Secretary- NECO

From: Ellen O'Brien eob2132@gmail.com

Date: August 4, 2020

To: "Costello, Eric" <Eric.Costello@baltimorecity.gov>, Edward.Reisinger@baltimorecity.gov, shannon.sneed@baltimorecity.com, marypat.clarke@baltimorecity.com, leon.pinkett@baltimorecity.com, robert.stokes@baltimorecity.com, john.bullock@baltimorecity.com, matthew.peters@baltimorecity.com

Subject: Comments re: CB20-0546 Natural Resources - Forest and Tree Conservation

To Chair Eric Costello and members of the Baltimore City Council Judiciary Committee:

I am writing in support of the Tree Ordinance bill, as a resident of Mount Washington, a Baltimore Treekeeper, Weed Warrior & Tree Pruner, Co-Chair of Friends of Luckman Park, and member of a newly formed Friends of Northwest Park.

I moved to Baltimore from North Carolina in 1993 to one of the more greener neighborhoods in the City, Mount Washington. But during my years here I've seen many of our trees come down do to storms, age, pests, and development. Working downtown made me very aware of the lack of trees and the heat that concrete absorbs from all the buildings. So I started working with the Treekeepers in east Baltimore where some streets have no trees at all and some of the highest asthma rates in the city. Please pass this bill to improve our air quality, runoff and the heat of the city that is becoming more unbearable as time passes. This greatly reduce the risk of heat-related deaths in those neighborhoods—one can feel the difference simply by stepping out of the shade of a tree anywhere in the city, especially during this 4-week-streak of extreme temperatures.

Separately, it seems only intelligent (and helpful to City staff) to bring the City's Code and associated guidance into alignment with the City's existing environmental regulations and into compliance with state law.

I urge you to pass this bill for the health of the city.

Sincerely,

Ellen O'Brien
443-791-2728

--

**Keswick Neighborhood Association
KIA**

August 3, 2020

Dear Chairman Costello and Members of the Judiciary Committee:


The Keswick Improvement Association writes to urge your **support for Council Bill 20-0546 Natural Resources - Forest and Tree Conservation**. These updates to City regulations will help curb future tree canopy loss due to development and build toward a greener, healthier city. There are a host of reasons to support this important legislation:

- A healthy city has a tree canopy of at least 40%. Baltimore City currently has a 28% tree canopy. In order to continue to grow our city's tree canopy, we must protect our existing trees.
- Trees clean our air and water, reduce flooding, lower temperatures and energy bills, improve public health and social cohesion, and beautify our neighborhoods.
- Changing the forest conservation triggers to 5,000 s.f. from 20,000 s.f. will protect more forests and preserve the city's tree canopy.

Trees are one of nature's most versatile and productive "machines" in the battle against climate change. The Keswick community is blessed with an abundance of mature trees throughout the neighborhood, plus the oases of Linkwood Park and the Stony Run Trail at our doorstep. These amenities contribute immensely to the high quality of life we enjoy. Neighborhoods throughout the City deserve these same resources, and your support for Council Bill 20-0546 will be an important step towards ensuring new development is accomplished in a way that enhances beauty, resiliency and quality of life across all of our communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our testimony on this important bill.

Sincerely,



Neetu Dhawan-Gray
President
Keswick Improvement Association (KIA)



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

Environmental Protection and Restoration
Environmental Education

Baltimore City Council Judiciary Committee

Bill No. 20-0546

DATE: AUGUST 4, 2020

POSITION: SUPPORT

POSITION

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation **supports** Bill No. 20-0546 and respectfully requests the Judiciary Committee's **favorable** recommendation. According to the City's Planning Commission, this bill updates the City's Forest and Tree Conservation provisions to comply with state requirements and to coordinate with other City environmental requirements.

COMMENTS

Throughout Maryland, trees are a valuable and critical part of clean water infrastructure. Urban and suburban stormwater runoff is untreated. It kills fish, pollutes swimming areas, erodes streams, floods homes, and causes many other problems.

Runoff pollution is increasing because the amount of land covered by parking lots, roads, roofs, and driveways, continues to grow. Only 10 to 20 percent of rain that falls in forests, fields, and other natural areas runs off, with the rest absorbed by soil and plants. By contrast, close to 100 percent of the rain that falls on concrete and other hard surface produces runoff. The percentage of coverage by hard surfaces has been estimated as 51 percent in Baltimore City. Tree plantings within the City help mitigate the challenge presented by development.

Several elements of this legislation's updates to the Baltimore City Code's Forest and Tree Conservation provisions and the Baltimore City Forest Conservation Manual appear to help curb tree loss due to development.

CONCLUSION

For these reasons, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation urges a **favorable** recommendation on Bill No. 20-0546. Please contact Robin Clark Eilenberg, Maryland Staff Attorney at reilenberg@cbf.org with any questions.

Maryland Office • Philip Merrill Environmental Center • 6 Herndon Avenue • Annapolis • Maryland • 21403
Phone (410) 268-8816 • Fax (410) 280-3513

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) is a non-profit environmental education and advocacy organization dedicated to the restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay. With over 270,000 members and e-subscribers, including over 102,000 in Maryland alone, CBF works to educate the public and to protect the interest of the Chesapeake and its resources.

Tuesday, August 4th 2020

TO: Eric Costello, Chair of the Judiciary Committee and Committee Members
FROM: Cait Kerr, The Nature Conservancy, Conservation & Climate Policy Analyst
POSITION: Support Council Bill 20-0546 – Natural Resources – Forest and Tree Conservation

The Nature Conservancy (The Conservancy) supports Council Bill 20-0546 offered by Council President Scott. The Conservancy is a global conservation organization working to conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends. Here in Maryland, our work is focused on delivering science-based, on-the-ground solutions that secure clean water and healthy living environments for our communities and also on increasing the resilience of our forests and coasts in the face of a changing climate. We are dedicated to a future where people and nature thrive together.

This legislation, once enacted, will advance the potential benefits nature brings to our communities. Preventing the loss of tree canopy and conserving Baltimore's green spaces will counteract the heat island effect and improve the health and well-being of Baltimore's residents. As our world gets warmer, the number of days we experience extreme heat will increase, particularly in cities. Extreme heat can worsen existing illnesses, posing severe threats to vulnerable individuals. It can also cause mental and physical stress, heat-related illnesses, and sometimes deaths. Shaded surfaces can be up to 20-45°F cooler than peak temperatures of unshaded surfaces. Evaporation and transpiration processes in plants can reduce peak temperatures in the area by 2-9°F.

On top of counteracting the increasing threat of extreme heat, trees also improve air quality by removing air pollutants. They sequester carbon dioxide, thereby mitigating climate change. Trees also reduce the risk of flooding and absorb stormwater runoff before it reaches our waterways. Additionally, this legislation would bring the City of Baltimore's Forest Conservation Program up-to-date with current statewide provisions under Maryland's Forest Conservation Act and would protect tree canopy and green spaces in the city to benefit current and future generations.

We commend Council President Scott for introducing this bill, which would promote public health, reduce flood risk, mitigate climate change and envision a greener future for Baltimore.

Therefore, we urge a favorable report on Council Bill 20-0546.

Peters, Matthew (City Council)

From: Amanda Cunningham <ahc819@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 3, 2020 4:03 PM
To: Costello, Eric (City Council); Reisinger, Edward (City Council); Sneed, Shannon (City Council); Clarke, MaryPat (City Council); Pinkett, Leon2 (City Council); Stokes, Robert (City Council); Bullock, John (City Council); Peters, Matthew (City Council)
Subject: Comments re: CB 20-0546 Natural Resources - Forest and Tree Conservation

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Dear Council Chair Eric Costello and Members of the Judiciary Committee,

Great news! We are looking for your support of new legislation that will further protect city trees. After two years of inspiring teamwork, the Tree Ordinance Committee, presents updates to city code relating to our urban tree canopy.

The City of Baltimore currently complies with State law and enforces the Forest Conservation Program but no changes have been made to the City's program in over a decade. Council Bill 20-0546 will update the code to comply with new state requirements, coordinate with other City environmental requirements, and align the code with existing policy.

As passionate city leaders, dedicated to improving all of Baltimore, you surely recognize that trees benefit everyone regardless of race, ethnicity, age, education, or economic level. Trees make it more comfortable to walk, bike and live in our city. They cool our neighborhoods, filter pollutants from the air and stormwater, and as studies have shown lower our blood pressure and stress levels.

Truly, Council Bill 20-0546, targets the health and well-being of every city resident and visitor by acknowledging the value of trees for a vigorous and welcoming city.

Join us in safeguarding and celebrating trees for better health outcomes and more resilient communities for all of Baltimore. We ask for your support of Council Bill 20-0545.

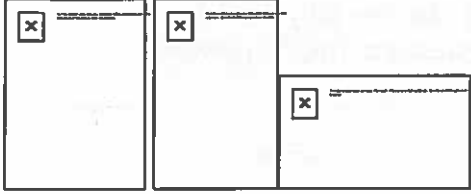
Established in 1988, the Baltimore City Forest Conservancy District Board has been pleased to be a part of drafting this significant legislation. We are thankful for the steady input of the Office of Sustainability to forge a better balance of green and gray infrastructure for our beloved city.

Sincerely,

Robert Black, Justin Bowers, Charles Brown, Fred Chalfant, Zoe Clarkwest, Amanda Cunningham, Rebecca Feldberg, Zoe Gensheimer, Ray Iturralde, Jill Jonnes, Jenny Katz, Katie Lauter, Sarah Lord,

Amanda H. Cunningham
ISA Certified Arborist®

Board Member:



ahc819@gmail.com

443-827-4201 (m)

Positive energy; pass it on.

Peters, Matthew (City Council)

From: mrmichaelkarasik@gmail.com
Sent: Monday, August 3, 2020 4:14 PM
To: Costello, Eric (City Council); Clarke, MaryPat (City Council); Peters, Matthew (City Council)
Cc: Katie Lautar
Subject: Comments - re: CB 20-0546 Natural Resources - Forest and Tree Conservation

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Comments

re: CB 20-0546 Natural Resources - Forest and Tree Conservation

Eric T. Costello, Chair, Eric.Costello@baltimorecity.gov

Edward Reisinger, Edward.Reisinger@baltimorecity.gov

Shannon Sneed, Shannon.Sneed@baltimorecity.gov

Mary Pat Clarke, MaryPat.Clarke@baltimorecity.gov

Leon Pinkett, Leon.Pinkett@baltimorecity.gov

Robert Stokes, Robert.Stokes@baltimorecity.gov

John Bullock, John.Bullock@baltimorecity.gov

Matthew Peters, Staff to the Committee, Matthew.Peters@baltimorecity.gov

Hello, I am Michael Karasik and a resident of Baltimore City for over 34 years. I am a Forest Steward for Fairwood Forest.

On Saturday, May 4, 2019 we celebrated the culmination of more than 7 years of community development and fundraising to commemorate community ownership of Fairwood Forest. The forest is Baltimore City's and Maryland's first community owned and protected urban forest. A group of around 120 people, including my neighbors, Senator McCray, Council President Scott, various nature groups and my fellow Forest Stewards attended the celebration.

The forest's trails and wildlife are enjoyed by our neighbors and visitors from all over the city. Last summer children from a local camp were seen visiting the forest as part of an urban nature experience. Over the last 12 months, my fellow forest stewards and I have been removing invasive vines. The vines were harming the tree canopy. We have cleared about 80 percent of the forest's canopy from strangling vines. The trees, undergrowth and the bird population all appear healthier.

About 20% of the forest's remaining parcels are not owned by Baltimore Green Space. These parcels are under 20,000 square feet. By reducing the canopy conservation trigger from the current 20,000 to 5,000 square feet it would immediately solve our problem in providing a significant disincentive from the remaining owners cutting down old growth trees.

I would like to thank the committee members for their time.



MARYLAND LEAGUE
OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

August 4th, 2020

Honorable Eric Costello
Judiciary Committee
Baltimore City Council
100 N Holliday St.
Baltimore, MD 21202

Maryland League of
Conservation Voters

Ed Hatcher, Board Chair
Maris St. Cyr, Vice Chair
Michael Davis, Treasurer
Hon. Virginia Clagett
Stuart Clarke
Candace Dodson-Reed
Verna Harrison
Melanie Hartwig-Davis
Lynn Heller
Hon. Steve Lafferty
Bonnie Norman
Katharine Thomas

Maryland League of
Conservation Voters
Education Fund

Chuck Porcari, Board Chair
Joy Blackwood
Lance Davis
Larissa Johnson

Kim Coble
Executive Director

30 West Street
Suite C
Annapolis, MD 21401

410.280.9855
mdlcv.org
marylandconservation.org

Comments re: CB 20-0546 Natural Resources - Forest and Tree Conservation – SUPPORT

Dear Judiciary Committee Chair Eric Costello and Honorable Baltimore City Council,

On behalf of the Maryland League of Conservation Voters, representing 2,444 members in Baltimore City, we urge you to support Council Bill #20-0546/ Natural Resources – Forest and Tree Conservation.

For years Maryland League of Conservation Voters has been working to improve forest policy throughout the state. Baltimore is in good company in that jurisdiction after jurisdiction have been improving their forest conservation ordinances over the last year. While this bill's forest protections are not as strong as the new ordinances in Frederick, Howard, or Anne Arundel Counties, the bill does represent a small but important step for Baltimore's forests, and it helps bring Baltimore into compliance with the new state minimum standards passed by the state legislature last year. The increase of the fee in lieu proposed is paramount to complying with state law.

Forests are not just important in the most rural areas of Maryland. Trees and forests are essential to the prosperity of every resident in Baltimore. Baltimore residents deserve healthy forests and the benefits they provide. Studies show that populations living near forested areas exhibit lower rates of asthma, diabetes, and high blood pressure. Views of nature reduce stress (Parson et. Al 1998). Forests clean the air and create clean drinking water. A survey of 27 water suppliers found that for every 10% increase in forest cover upstream of water intakes, treatment costs decreased by approximately 20%. A single tree can intercept 500-4,000 gallons of stormwater a year. Studies show huge economic benefits of forests. Prince George's County demonstrated that the air filtration value of its forests was \$21 million annually, and water filtration service was \$12.8 billion annually. Cecil County found that general benefits were at least \$12,000 per acre per year. Without forests, taxpayers pay in real dollars for cleanup plans.

Thank you for investing your time and energy in this important legislation. Please vote yes on CB 20-0546.

Sincerely,

Benjamin Alexandro
Water Policy Advocate
Maryland League of Conservation Voters
Maryland LCV Education Fund
845-596-9634
balexandro@mdlcv.org

Peters, Matthew (City Council)

From: Colin Beckman <beckman.colin@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 3, 2020 3:07 PM
To: Costello, Eric (City Council); Reisinger, Edward (City Council); Sneed, Shannon (City Council); Clarke, MaryPat (City Council); Pinkett, Leon2 (City Council); Stokes, Robert (City Council); Bullock, John (City Council); Peters, Matthew (City Council)
Cc: Monika Graves; Brian; Patricia Denver
Subject: Comments re: CB 20-0546 Natural Resources - Forest and Tree Conservation

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: Blue Category

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Dear Judiciary Committee Chair Eric Costello:

We are four Greenmount West residents, homeowners, and participants in Tree Baltimore's 2018 Tree Keeper program. We write to urge your support for Council Bill 20-0546: Natural Resources - Forest and Tree Conservation. This bill would update our Forest Conservation Program in a way that is comprehensive. The need for this update is urgent. Thank you for your seriousness in approaching the matter and for holding this week's hearing.

The four of us attended Tree Baltimore's Treekeeper program in Fall 2018. We were trained to plant and care for street trees. As such, we have, with the help of the city, coordinated the planting of two dozen new street trees in Greenmount West, and now have a larger team of people who regularly water and care for the new trees on their block. But we know our efforts must be part of a larger strategy to make a long-term difference.

Bill 20-0546 would help curb tree canopy loss so that Baltimore can hold steady as it builds toward the crucial threshold of 40 percent tree canopy. Right now, Baltimore has just over 27 percent tree canopy coverage. In any city, trees die regularly without being replaced naturally. New trees must be replanted and cared for by human hands. And that is why preserving the significant coverage created by forest patches, pocket parks, and stream-side forests is so important. If we take one step back for every one step forward, we can never hope to close that 13 percent gap. Accordingly, an essential component of this bill is reducing the trigger for review from 20,000 square feet down to 5,000 square feet. As we all know, Baltimore is a city of small lots, small parks, and small streams. A 5,000 square foot lot is equal to about two or three row-home plots. There are many such forest patches and parkettes scattered throughout Baltimore that merit protection by Maryland's Forest Conservation Act. I ask this committee to ensure that this provision makes it through into the final legislation. It will be a crucial component of a comprehensive strategy to increase Baltimore's tree canopy coverage.

Speaking of a comprehensive strategy, we would like to take this opportunity to urge the city council to consider a program that would accelerate Baltimore's attainment of at least 40 percent canopy by a date certain. One such successful model took place in New York City over the last decade (<https://www.nycgovparks.org/trees/milliontreesnyc>). The Million Trees NYC Initiative planted and cared for 1 million trees in partnership with the non-profit New York Restoration Project. Baltimore could borrow from this model to turbo-charge our tree canopy goals. As we enter an era of intensifying climate and weather extremes, expanding our tree canopy will be one of the most constructive things we can do.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please accept these updates to the city code that will help protect and grow our city's tree canopy.

Sincerely,

Colin Beckman
Monika Graves
Brian Levy
Patricia Denver

Peters, Matthew (City Council)

From: Jeremy Walston <jwalston@jhmi.edu>
Sent: Monday, August 3, 2020 12:31 PM
To: Costello, Eric (City Council); Reisinger, Edward (City Council); Sneed, Shannon (City Council); Clarke, MaryPat (City Council); Pinkett, Leon2 (City Council); Stokes, Robert (City Council); Bullock, John (City Council); Peters, Matthew (City Council)
Cc: 'tsmithhams@bluewaterbaltimore.org'
Subject: testimony for forestry meeting today

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Dear Mr. Costello and City Council Members. I'm writing as testimony to your committee meeting regarding city forestry.

I'm a huge advocate for tree planting in the city and have been working for years in Bolton Hill with my partner George Lavdas to maintain a healthy tree canopy in the neighborhood. We have engaged dozens of neighbors in this effort, and have recently moved to ensure more native tree plantings all across the neighborhood. The result is a mostly healthy, green, and diverse tree canopy that all can enjoy.

In addition, I spend countless hours every year in Druid Hill Park removing invasive vines that kill many mid-size forest edge trees. Although the city has been planting new trees in the park, I have observed minimal work to protect the existing canopy in the park. There is certainly no sustained effort to cut the vines in edge forests of the Park, especially in the border along the Jones Falls corridor. As a result, much of that formerly very healthy canopy is rapidly dying out and being replaced with one or two invasive, non-native vines that do little to support wild life habitat and little to cool and clean the air of Baltimore City.

I have also on several occasions reached out to the city forester via phone calls and emails about the ongoing die-off in the white oaks in the central part of the park. Despite this, Mr. Dihle has never replied to my emails or called me back.

I agree that we really need to push new native trees like resistant elms into all neighborhoods of Baltimore, and especially the redlined neighborhoods. In addition, the forestry really needs to better protect the existing canopy in the park lands that we have before that canopy is reduced further.

I would appreciate a reply to this email/testimony for the meeting today.

Jeremy D. Walston, M.D.
Raymond and Anna Lublin Professor of Geriatric Medicine

Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
5501 Hopkins Bayview Circle, Suite 1A.62
Baltimore, MD 21224
Ph: 410-550-1003
Fax: 410-550-3143
jwalston@jhmi.edu
@JeremyWalstonMD

Peters, Matthew (City Council)

From: Ellen Worthing <eworthing2000@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, August 3, 2020 12:48 PM
To: Costello, Eric (City Council); Reisinger, Edward (City Council); Sneed, Shannon (City Council); Clarke, MaryPat (City Council); Pinkett, Leon2 (City Council); Stokes, Robert (City Council); Bullock, John (City Council); Peters, Matthew (City Council)
Subject: Comments re: CB 20-0546 Natural Resources -Forest and Tree Conservation
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged
Categories: Blue Category

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re: CB 20-0546 Natural Resources -Forest and Tree Conservation

To all:

I am disgusted with the way city residents are losing forest canopy out here in the peninsula. In the last two weeks we've lost 2 acres of forest in Locust Point due to a developer working with CSX to have forest area mowed down. Another acre of forest in Latrobe Park is planned for destruction by the same developer, Mark Sapperstein so he can create a road and parking for his luxury townhome development. I've never seen so many corrupt and illegal shenanigans maneuvered behind closed doors all in the name of giving a single developer exactly what he wants, which is gifting him city land for free for his housing development.

I'm livid. Yes, I live here. Yes, I own a home. Yes, I pay my taxes. Yes, I vote in every election. Nobody in the government seems to be listening to my concerns. I want this bill passed. It's hot out here on the peninsula and getting hotter. It's hot because there are fewer and fewer trees. We keep losing forest. You mow the forest down in order to build luxury townhomes it is going to get even hotter. It won't matter how much the city government collects in property and income tax revenue if the taxpayers are all dead from extreme heat. Start listening to the people who vote rather than those who line your pockets. Protect the trees and forest.

Pass this bill.

Ellen Worthing
1243 Haubert Street
Baltimore, MD 21230

Peters, Matthew (City Council)

From: Regina Minniss <rminniss@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 3, 2020 11:49 AM
To: Costello, Eric (City Council); Reisinger, Edward (City Council); Sneed, Shannon (City Council); MaryPat.Clark@baltimorecity.gov; Pinkett, Leon2 (City Council); Stokes, Robert (City Council); Bullock, John (City Council); Peters, Matthew (City Council)
Subject: Comments re:CB 20-0546 Natural Resources - Forest and Tree Conservation

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Dear Judiciary Committee members and staff:

I am, and have always been my entire life, a Baltimore City resident. I am a certified Baltimore TreeKeeper, an Urban Weed Warrior, environmentalist, a very, very concerned citizen of this abused Earth, and presently a student at the University of Baltimore in their **Environmental Sustainability and Human Ecology** program.

In 2010 I gave a testimony concerning the mature trees in the four parks surrounding the Washington Monument in Mt. Vernon, Baltimore. At that time, I mention parts per million (PPM) of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere to be 385PPM. The ideal amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere should be 350PPM. According to the reading of carbon dioxide from Mauna Loa Observatory where atmospheric research has existed since the 1950's, the reading of CO₂ as of August 2, 2020 was 413.37PPM (low 410.41PPM). Prior days I have seen a high reading of approximately 417PPM. Just one month shy of 10 years from my testimony, our carbon dioxide in the atmosphere has increased by 28PPM+. This should be unacceptable to all. Almost a 3PPM increase every year.

The location of Mauna Loa allows the observatory to protrude through the strong marine temperature inversion layer present in the region. This separates the more polluted lower portions of the atmosphere from the much cleaner free troposphere. The undisturbed air, remote location, and human activity at MLO are ideal for monitoring constituents in the atmosphere that can cause climate change.

All of us are witnessing stronger storms, hotter days, more intense forest fires, dryer lands, food price increase, and many, many other devastating effects. I would like to add COVID 19 to this list too.

Mature and existing trees are a no brainer help to aide our now unavoidable climate change. Trees absorbed CO₂, they provide much needed shade, help with floods, provide housing for wildlife, provide food for wildlife and humans, purifies water, promotes calmness, provides beauty to our neighborhoods, and cost effective. They also provide more soil as they decay. Mature trees perform these rites more than newly planted trees.

Existing mature trees along with the addition of more trees are the BEST remedies to the present and future climate problems.

Thank you all for your attention to updating the Forst Conservation Code. The importance of trees cannot be understated and I urge you all to accept the updates to the City code that will help conserve our existing forests.

Sincerely,
Regina Minniss

Peters, Matthew (City Council)

From: Costello, Eric (City Council)
Sent: Monday, August 3, 2020 1:09 PM
To: Madeline Jaffe
Cc: Peters, Matthew (City Council)
Subject: RE: Comments re: CB 20-0546 Natural Resources - Forest and Tree Conservation

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Madeline, thank you for reaching out on this important legislative matter. Please note that I share your position here.

Matt, please ensure this letter is added to the official bill file. Thanks, EC

Eric T. Costello
Baltimore City Council, 11th District
(m) [443-813-1457](tel:443-813-1457) | (o) [410-396-4816](tel:410-396-4816)
(e) eric.costello@baltimorecity.gov
Critical Information on Coronavirus COVID-19
Twitter | Facebook | Instagram

From: Madeline Jaffe <jaffe.madeline@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 3, 2020 12:46 PM
To: Costello, Eric (City Council) <Eric.Costello@baltimorecity.gov>
Subject: Comments re: CB 20-0546 Natural Resources - Forest and Tree Conservation

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Judiciary Committee Chair Eric Costello,

My name is Madeline Jaffe, and I am a Baltimore City high school senior and city resident. Thank you for hosting this meeting and hearing exactly why this issue is so crucial to Baltimore's future. As a young person, the issue of climate change has always been present in my life, as have the solutions. Increased green space, transitioning away from fossil fuels, and economic sustainability are all things that have been ingrained into my mind. However, none of these solutions matter if we do not take the political action necessary to make them a reality.

A healthy city has a tree canopy of at least 40%. Baltimore City is currently at 28%. That is 12% between a more environmentally friendly, safe, and community-oriented city. As a student who has traveled all across Baltimore for internships and community service projects, I have seen the impacts of trees and green spaces upon our neighborhoods. Trees make communities feel cared for, and it's not just a feeling - this is reality. Trees clean our air and water, lower temperatures and contribute to removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere (therefore fighting climate change), and improve public health. Trees care for the environment, our citizens, and our future. I strongly believe Baltimore City can set an example and prove to its youth that its

politicians care for our future. In order to do this, we must begin by passing the 2020 Forest Conservation Code Update.

Thank you so much for your time. By passing this update, you would not only be conserving forests, but our city.

Peters, Matthew (City Council)

From: Costello, Eric (City Council)
Sent: Monday, August 3, 2020 11:18 AM
To: Adeline Hutchins; Taylor Smith-Hams; Darin Crew; Rodette Jones; Zoe Gensheimer; Reisinger, Edward (City Council)
Cc: Peters, Matthew (City Council); Pinkett, Leon2 (City Council)
Subject: RE: CB 20-05646 TREE CONSERVATION SUPPORT
Attachments: CB 20 05646 NATURAL RESOURCES TESTIMONY.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Ms. Hutchinson, thank you for reaching out on this important legislative matter. Please note that I share your position here.

Matt, please ensure this letter is added to the official bill file. Thanks, EC

Eric T. Costello
Baltimore City Council, 11th District
(m) [443-813-1457](tel:443-813-1457) | (o) [410-396-4816](tel:410-396-4816)
(e) eric.costello@baltimorecity.gov
[Critical Information on Coronavirus COVID-19](#)
[Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#)

From: Adeline Hutchins <adeline5551@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 3, 2020 8:29 AM
To: Taylor Smith-Hams <tsmithhams@bluewaterbaltimore.org>; Darin Crew <dcrew@bluewaterbaltimore.org>; Rodette Jones <rodette111958@gmail.com>; Zoe Gensheimer <zgensheimer@bluewaterbaltimore.org>; Reisinger, Edward (City Council) <EReisinger@baltimorecity.gov>; Costello, Eric (City Council) <Eric.Costello@baltimorecity.gov>
Subject: CB 20-05646 TREE CONSERVATION SUPPORT

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Testimony ..

Sorry for the last minute response, but I sincerely hope this will support a worthwhile effort.

--
Adeline Hutchinson, BS,MS
President, GMCC
President, RWCCO
H-(410) 669-0063
Ofc. (410) 523-4500

Peters, Matthew (City Council)

From: Thomas John Weir Ventre <tommy.ventre@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2020 1:04 PM
To: Costello, Eric (City Council); Reisinger, Edward (City Council); Sneed, Shannon (City Council); Clarke, MaryPat (City Council); Pinkett, Leon2 (City Council); Stokes, Robert (City Council); Bullock, John (City Council); Peters, Matthew (City Council)
Subject: Comments re: CB 20-0546 Natural Resources - Forest and Tree Conservation

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Greetings all,

My name is Tommy Ventre and I am a Baltimore City resident and a former Maryland Master Naturalist. I am writing to thank you for hosting this hearing and taking the issue of forest conservation seriously. The following comments serve as my testimony in favor of passing Council Bill 20-0546.

There are two branches (sorry for the pun) of benefits trees provide. One is purely economic. The US Forest Service has valued a single tree over a 50-year period as follows:

- \$31,250 worth of oxygen
- \$62,000 worth of air pollution control
- \$37,500 worth of water
- \$31,250 worth of soil-erosion control
- 2,500 lbs. of carbon sequestration

(Tillman, Ned. *The Chesapeake Watershed*. Baltimore: Chesapeake Book Company, 2009)

Those numbers speak for themselves. Multiply them by the number of trees it would take to get the city to a 40% canopy, and one can see the value trees would provide an economically strapped city. Furthermore, as ecosystem services like the ones trees provide are increasingly priced into markets and budgets around the globe, it would be prudent for our city's leaders to be out in front of the trend and position Baltimore to benefit when such accounting changes come to the United States. If ever the day arrives when cities can earn money based on the percentage of tree canopy they have (as in a carbon-trading market), shame on Baltimore if we're still stuck at 28 percent.

The second branch is related to public health. I live on E. Lake Avenue in District 4. On days when the city has issued an air-quality alert or an excessive heat warning, I can feel the discomfort when I'm out in front of my house along the unshaded street. In those moments, I think of all the people who are in sensitive groups and how careful they have to be to avoid negative health outcomes during the warmer months. Then, I step back toward the house, which is nestled in the stream valley that shelters Chinquapin Run and is shaded by two massive tulip poplars. The air temperature is almost startlingly cooler thanks to those trees and the others that line the stream. Imagine if every resident of the city were able to experience the same cooling effect. Imagine the positive impact on their health and well-being. Imagine not having to issue air-quality alerts and incurring all the costs that come with such warnings. That's a vision we can make real, but it will take forward-thinking legislation such as Council Bill 20-0546.

Again, I strongly urge you to accept updates to the city code that will help preserve Baltimore's tree canopy. Thanks again for seriously considering this issue.

Yours,
Tommy Ventre
1024 E. Lake Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21212

Peters, Matthew (City Council)

From: mpazrael@aol.com
Sent: Monday, August 3, 2020 9:34 AM
To: Costello, Eric (City Council)
Cc: Reisinger, Edward (City Council); Sneed, Shannon (City Council); MaryPat.Clark@baltimorecity.gov; Pinkett, Leon2 (City Council); Stokes, Robert (City Council); Bullock, John (City Council); Peters, Matthew (City Council)
Subject: Comments re CB 20-0546 Natural Resources

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Comments re CB 20-0546 Natural Resources - Forest and Tree Conservation

Dear Chairman Costello and members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am a lifelong resident of Baltimore City and, at 76, I've lived and worked in many city neighborhoods. I'm grateful for Druid Hill Park and many smaller refuges from the heat and concrete. In the '70s and '90s, I brought my children and my grandchildren to play among the trees at Cylburn Arboretum. During COVID times, I saw how important this place is to Baltimoreans, especially those with young families, and I joined Friends of Cylburn Arboretum.

Ideally, Baltimore City residents shouldn't have to seek out a few widely-scattered oases where we can breathe clean air and cool off. Increasing numbers of Baltimoreans, especially children, suffer from asthma and other breathing problems. And as summers grow hotter, we need our shade trees more than ever.

For our health, we should nearly double Baltimore's existing tree canopy .

I feel grateful to all the people who give their time and money to protect existing trees and plant new ones. Clearly, you're among those who care, and I thank you for hosting this meeting. You can do more than most of us through your power to create the strongest possible legislation.

I hope you will always make the best decisions for improving the quality of life in Baltimore for our children and for all of us. Most immediately, *please accept all the updates to city code that will help conserve our forests, large and small.*

Thank you all for your work on behalf of us.

Mary Isabel Azrael

-->

Peters, Matthew (City Council)

From: Miriam Avins <miriam.avins@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 3, 2020 10:16 AM
To: Costello, Eric (City Council)
Cc: Reisinger, Edward (City Council); Sneed, Shannon (City Council); Clarke, MaryPat (City Council); Pinkett, Leon2 (City Council); Stokes, Robert (City Council); Bullock, John (City Council); Peters, Matthew (City Council)
Subject: CB20-0546 Natural Resources - Forest and Tree Conservation

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To: Councilman Eric Costello, Chair, Judiciary Committee
From: Miriam Avins, Co-chair, Commission on Sustainability
Date: August 3, 2020
Re: CB 20-0546 Natural Resources - Forest and Tree Conservation

Dear Chairman Costello,

I am writing in support of Bill 20-0546, regarding forest and tree conservation. This legislation will update Baltimore's Forest Conservation program to conform to changes to the state program, and to better account for the role of forested areas here in Baltimore.

Strategy 4, Action 2 of the Sustainability Plan's chapter on Trees calls for the city to adopt a tree ordinance to preserve trees and forests on public and private property. CB 20-0546, one of several bills that will accomplish this goal, focuses on forested areas.

In a city, landscapes are built on a smaller scale than in rural areas. Baltimore's forested areas are truly meaningful: to people seeking recreation and respite, to more than 90 species of birds, and to at least 23 species of native trees. They absorb stormwater more effectively than any other land use, and clean and cool the air. Because they are scattered around the city, they do this more effectively than a similar acreage of forested land in one place.

As the former director of Baltimore Green Space, this bill is personally meaningful to me because BGS brought the forest patches to the attention of City government. We saw an asset that was overlooked by government – and neighbors who were getting to work caring for these forests in Wilson Park, Pen Lucy, Hamilton, along York Road, and elsewhere. With this bill, you have the opportunity to simultaneously protect the environment that supports us all, while providing recreational opportunities to many neighborhoods – all while streamlining regulatory reviews.

Thank you for your attention to forest conservation.

Regards,

Miriam Avins

The following table shows the results of the audit of the financial statements of the company for the year ended 31st December 2019. The audit was conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 and the Standards on Auditing issued by the Institute of Cost Accountants of India.

The financial statements have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting and the company has adopted the accounting policies set out in the notes to the financial statements. The company has not been able to ascertain the true and fair view of its financial position as at the balance sheet date.

The company has not been able to ascertain the true and fair view of its financial position as at the balance sheet date. The company has not been able to ascertain the true and fair view of its financial position as at the balance sheet date. The company has not been able to ascertain the true and fair view of its financial position as at the balance sheet date.

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Peters, Matthew (City Council)

From: DAVID BARRETT <DavidOBarrett@msn.com>
Sent: Monday, August 3, 2020 10:39 AM
To: Costello, Eric (City Council)
Cc: Reisinger, Edward (City Council); Sneed, Shannon (City Council); Clarke, MaryPat (City Council); Pinkett, Leon2 (City Council); Stokes, Robert (City Council); Bullock, John (City Council); Peters, Matthew (City Council)
Subject: Comments re: CB 20-0546 Natural Resources - Forest and Tree Conservation

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Judiciary Committee Chair Eric Costello:

My name is David Barrett. I am a Baltimore City Resident as well as a Baltimore City TreeKeeper. Thank you very much for hosting this hearing and taking this issue seriously. Preserving and improving Baltimore City's tree canopy is important to me. As you know, trees are particularly important for the health of our city. Trees help keep our water and air clean. A healthy city has a tree canopy of at least 40%. Baltimore City currently has a 28% tree canopy. To continue to grow our city's tree canopy, we must protect our existing trees.

I appreciate your time in addressing this important issue. I hope that you will accept the updates to the city code that will help conserve our forests.

David Barrett

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Peters, Matthew (City Council)

From: Amy Sheridan <amy1855@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 2, 2020 5:58 PM
To: Sneed, Shannon (City Council); Clarke, MaryPat (City Council); Pinkett, Leon2 (City Council); Stokes, Robert (City Council); Bullock, John (City Council); Peters, Matthew (City Council)
Subject: Comments re: CB 20-0546 Natural Resources - Forest and Tree Conservation
Categories: Blue Category

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To Chair Eric Costello and members of the Baltimore City Council Judiciary Committee:

I am writing in support of the Tree Ordinance bill, as a resident of Bolton Hill, a member of the Bolton Hill Community Association board, and a member of the steering committee of Baltimore Blue Green Just.

I moved to Baltimore from New Hampshire in 2017 and, while I love the greenery in my adopted neighborhood, I am too aware that many Baltimore neighborhoods have no tree canopy at all. This greatly increases the summer heat index and risk of heat-related deaths in those neighborhoods—one can feel the difference simply by stepping out of the shade of a tree anywhere in the city, especially during this 4-week-streak of extreme temperatures.

Also, I have been dismayed to learn that current guidance does not require 1:1 replacement of trees removed by land development actions.

Separately, it seems only intelligent (and helpful to City staff) to bring the City's Code and associated guidance into alignment with the City's existing environmental regulations and into compliance with state law.

As an enthusiastic new resident of Baltimore, I urge you to pass this bill into law.

Thank you for your time,

Amy Sheridan
Board member, Bolton Hill Community Association
Steering Committee member, Baltimore Blue Green Just



--
Amy Sheridan 603-545-9696



August 1, 2020

RE: Council Bill 20-0546 Natural Resources - Forest and Tree Conservation

Dear Councilmembers of the Judiciary Committee,

I urge you to support Council Bill 20-0546. As the Executive Director of Baltimore Green Space, a member of the Baltimore City Forestry Board, and a partner to the Office of Sustainability in this work, I assure you that all updates suggested by the bill are important and necessary. Most important, however, is ensuring that the **forest conservation trigger is updated to activate at 5,000 square feet of disturbance.**

This aligns with other planning thresholds and creates a needed safeguard to ensure forested lots aren't overlooked. Passing this bill also helps to meet goal 3, under the Trees and Forests section of the Sustainability Plan, adopted in 2019. Approving this bill will ensure that Baltimore retains more of its community forests.

Baltimore Green Space became aware of the need for more forest protection when neighbors Mabel Smith, Henashena Hayes, and Charles Brown of Historic Wilson Park reached out to us in hopes that we could stop several lots of Wilson Woods from being cleared. We all believed something was in place in City government to protect their beloved forest. After researching regulations, we learned there was nothing to prevent the loss of the forest lots. See attached images of this devastation.

The total square footage of the lost Wilson Woods lots was under the 20,000 trigger for the forest conservation regulations. As you can see, those lots were cleared. What you cannot see from this photo is that the lots cleared are at least 10 degrees hotter every day of the year than those that remain forested.

Because of this loss, we conducted original research with the Baltimore Office of Sustainability and UMBC's Dr. Baker, to learn that 20% of Baltimore's tree canopy is in forest patches outside of parks. **We urge you to support this bill to protect more of them from the fate of the Wilson Woods lots.**

Forests have a better effect on cooling neighborhoods and managing stormwater than street trees alone. Baltimore has more forests than most cities and retaining them is important to neighborhood cooling and climate resilience. Just as important is that neighbors love their neighborhood forest patches.

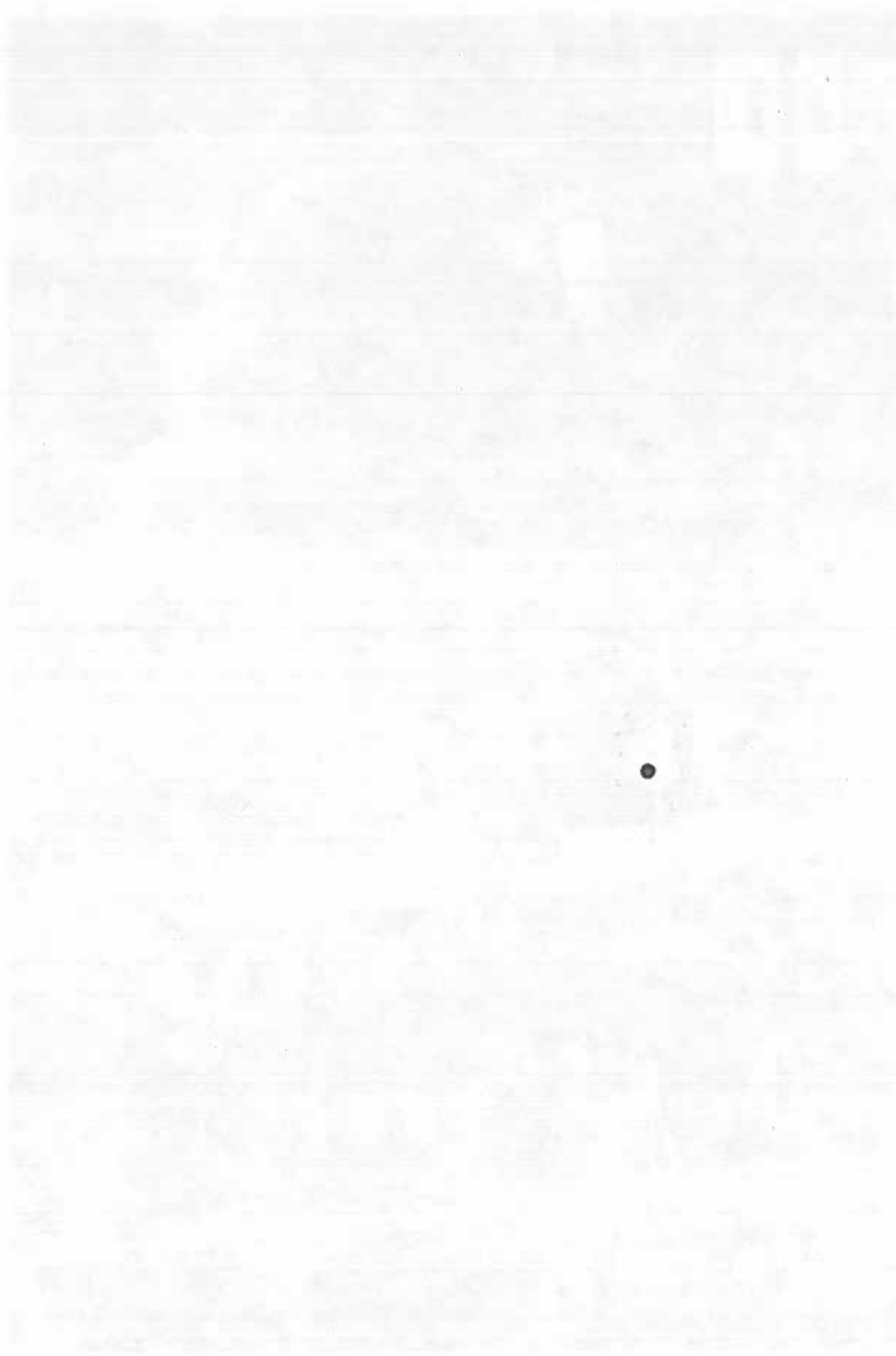
We hope you will get us all closer to achieving Sustainability Plan goals by approving this update. Baltimore citizens deserve to have the necessary regulations in place to truly protect their forests for future generations.

Sincerely,

Katherine Lautar

Katie Lautar, Executive Director









BHCA

Bolton Hill Community Association

Baltimore City Council Judiciary Committee Chair Eric Costello
August 1, 2020

RE: Support for CB20-0546 Natural Resources - Forest and Tree Conservation


Baltimore City Council Judiciary Committee:

I'm writing to convey the Bolton Hill Community Association's support for Baltimore City's 2020 forest conservation code updates. Aligning the City's forest conservation regulations more closely with the state's will signal Baltimore's commitment to strong protections for its forests.

Trees are a vital part of Bolton Hill. BHCA works closely with the Midtown Community Benefits District to plant and maintain trees in Bolton Hill. In the spring and fall, Midtown obtains trees from the City, which are planted with the help of volunteers in the neighborhood.

Although Bolton Hill does not contain forest patches, BHCA recognizes the importance of maintaining its tree canopy, especially in the center of a city with miles of paved streets and sidewalks while playing its part in helping Baltimore reach its goal of 40 percent of tree canopy coverage. BHCA considers the forest conservation code updates important for advancing this goal as well.

Thank you,



David Nyweide
BHCA President

Peters, Matthew (City Council)

From: Kevin Cleary <kevindcleary@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 2, 2020 12:40 PM
To: Costello, Eric (City Council); Reisinger, Edward (City Council); Sneed, Shannon (City Council); Clarke, MaryPat (City Council); Pinkett, Leon2 (City Council); Stokes, Robert (City Council); Bullock, John (City Council); Peters, Matthew (City Council)
Cc: Scott Johnson; Amanda Cunningham; Laura Gillis; Patty Dowd; Taylor Smith-Hams; Katie Lautar
Subject: Comments re: CB 20-0546 Natural Resources - Forest and Tree Conservation

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Chairman Costello, Vice-Chairwoman Clarke and Members of the Baltimore City Council Judiciary Committee

This note is written on behalf of the Board of Friends of Herring Run Parks, Inc. (FHRP) in support of City Council Bill 20-0546 Natural Resources – Forest and Tree Conservation, also known as the Tree Ordinance. We urge your earnest consideration of and support for this bill.

The mission of Friends of Herring Run Parks, Inc., a not-for-profit organization, is to preserve, protect, restore, and promote Herring Run Parks and its stream valley for the benefit of present and future generations. The intent of the Tree Ordinance before your Committee aligns nicely with our mission. Along with our sister greening and clean water organizations we ask that you vote the Tree Ordinance out of Committee and champion its passage on 2nd and 3rd Reader on the floor of the City Council.

As you are all aware, we are facing a crisis of global proportions due to the novel coronavirus. We are hopeful that a vaccine will be developed that will allow us to turn the corner and push back this deadly pandemic. Once we tackle the current pandemic, we will still be faced with a crisis just as great as the covid-19 pandemic – global climate change.

The planting, protecting, and maintaining of trees and all green vegetation can be seen as a simple “vaccine” in the fight against climate change.

With most activities and businesses shutting down due to the pandemic we have seen an increase in the number of people who are using Herring Run Park. People value our green spaces and having a healthy tree canopy in our parks promotes greater use of the park. Our trees clean the air, produce oxygen, support a variety of wildlife, and cool our urban areas during Baltimore’s blast-furnace summers.

Thank you for taking the time to review our note and for your consideration of this critical piece of legislation to protect our city’s urban forests for the health of everyone.

Sincerely,

FHRP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Scott Johnson, President
Kevin Cleary, Vice-President
Patty Dowd, Coordinator

Laura Gillis, Secretary
Amanda Cunningham, Treasurer

cc: Councilman & Committee Chair Eric Costello
Councilwoman & Committee Vice-Chair Mary Pat Clarke
Councilman John Bullock
Councilman Leon Pinkett
Councilman Ed Reisinger
Councilwoman Shannon Sneed
Councilman Robert Stokes
Mr. Matthew Peters, Staff to the Committee
Taylor Smith-Hams, Blue Water Baltimore
Katie Lautar, Baltimore Green Space

Kevin D. Cleary
kevindcleary@gmail.com

Rodette Jones
4243 Pascal Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21226

July 31, 2020

Judiciary Committee Chair Eric Costello

Comments re: CB 20-05646 Natural Resources-Forest and Tree Conservation

My name is Rodette Jones, I'm a Baltimore City resident and Community Association Leader. I'm currently doing a tree project for the Curtis Bay area with Blue Water Baltimore and recently helped with tree planting in the Brooklyn area with Blue Water Baltimore. Thank you for hosting this hearing and taking this issue seriously.

I currently run Filbert Street Community Garden and a green space called Garrett Park. I'd love to see a greener Baltimore due to the amount of pollution truck traffic has cause in the south part of Baltimore City which is a great concern of mine.

I'd like to share a fact or two about the issue I find compelling:

- A healthy city has a tree canopy of at least 40%. Baltimore City has a 28% tree canopy. In order to continue to grow our city's tree canopy, we must protect our existing trees.
- Trees clean our air and water, reduce flooding, lower temperatures and energy bills, improve public health and social cohesion, and beautify our neighborhoods.

The current laws passed for the Forest Conservation Act is over 20 years old and should be updated to comply with state law, codify existing policies and coordinate with other City environmental regulations. These updates will help curb future tree canopy loss due to development and built toward a healthier greener Baltimore.

I like to thank the committee members for your time and I urge you to accept updates to city code to conserve our forests. Have a nice day.

Sincerely,

Rodette Jones

Friends of Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park

1920 Eagle Drive, Baltimore, MD 21207
www.friendsofgwynnsfalls/leakinpark.org



The Friends of Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and improvement of the park. We are currently seeking volunteers and donors to help us with our ongoing projects. If you are interested in joining our team, please contact us at the address above. We would love to have you on board!

Our mission is to provide a safe and enjoyable environment for all park visitors. We focus on maintaining the park's natural beauty while also providing modern amenities. Your support is crucial to our success.

For more information, visit our website at www.friendsofgwynnsfalls/leakinpark.org. We are always open to suggestions and ideas from our community.

William A. [Name]
President
Friends of Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park
www.friendsofgwynnsfalls/leakinpark.org

Gwynns Falls



John Chambers
Craig Close - Treasurer

Tall Stream Park

Peggy Cummings
George Farrant-VP
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Historian
Karen Hull-Secretary
Alison Jane
Jack Lattimore
Bridget McCusker-
President
Dustin Meeker
Jo Orser
Brenda Pinkney
Amy Stump
Chris Wharton
Zachary White

July 31, 2020

Eric Costello, Chair
Judiciary Committee Baltimore City Council

The Friends of Gwynns Falls Leakin Park (FoGFLP) fully support Council Bill 20-0546 Natural Resources - Forest and Tree Conservation. As an active Friends Group in Baltimore City for 37 years, FoGFLP members have been involved in front line park maintenance and advocacy work in Gwynns Falls Leakin Park (GFLP) and are acutely aware of the negative impact of development, climate change, and other projects that do not utilize best practices in our green spaces. It is a known fact that trees clean our air and water, reduce flooding, lower temperatures and energy bills, improve public health and social cohesion, and beautify our neighborhoods and this is why we support Council Bill 20-20-0546.

I would to share my recent observations in GFLP since the onset of the pandemic of 2020. Prior to the onset of pandemic restrictions in March 2020, during my almost daily walk, I rarely saw more that 10 people in the park on any given day and because I vary the time, location, and length of my walks, I think I have been able to ascertain a fairly accurate picture of park usage over a number of years. Since the onset of Covid-19 restrictions, I see more people than I can keep track of from very early in the morning until the evening. The park provides a healthy haven for visitors and people have commented that it is like a sanctuary for them. Many visitors are newcomers to GFLP, some are returning after having been away for many years, parents are using the park as an opportunity to teach their children about nature, and all agree that it is the safest and healthiest place they can be given what's going on in the City and world. The Friends of GFLP thank you for your time an urge you to accept updates to the city code that will help conserve our forests.

Bridget McCusker, President
Friends of Gwynns Falls Leakin Park
mccbrid@gmail.com

Peters, Matthew (City Council)

From: Anne Colgan <annecolgan02@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2020 10:27 AM
To: Costello, Eric (City Council); Reisinger, Edward (City Council); Sneed, Shannon (City Council); Clarke, MaryPat (City Council); leon.pinknett@baltimorecity.gov; Stokes, Robert (City Council); Bullock, John (City Council); Peters, Matthew (City Council)
Subject: comments on CB 20-0546 Natural Resources Forest and Tree Conservation

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Dear Judiciary Chair Costello:

My name is Anne Colgan, and I'm a resident of Original Northwood in N.E. Baltimore. I'm writing in support of the above-referenced bill and am urging all members of the committee and the city council to consider its adoption and to thank you for your consideration of this very important matter.

I am a passionate advocate for trees. I moved to Original Northwood largely because of the mature white oaks that grace our streets and yards. I spent ten summers (I'm a teacher) working for the Department of Recreation and Parks and later Tree Baltimore, gaining an arborist certificate from the International Society of Arboriculture. In that role, I led or participated in dozens of tree-related activities, from planting, to mulching and watering, to invasive vine removal. I left that work partly because of the city's seeming indifference to green spaces generally and trees in particular. Transportation would mow newly-planted gardens despite repeated attempts to show supervisors what NOT to do. All manner of city trucks would park underneath trees, damaging limbs and crushing fragile roots in flagrant violation of the rules which stipulate otherwise. Mowing crews routinely hit newly planted trees with their equipment. My own department lacked both the will and the manpower to enforce those rules. I have watched in horror as the city virtually "gave" BGE 10 acres of forest in Leakin Park for a new pipeline that could have been buried under city streets. The riparian buffer of Chinquapin Park was destroyed by DPW during nesting season. These are just a few of the assaults on Baltimore's urban forest conducted by our very own agencies, employees, and contractors. There is, as well, a deep level of antipathy toward trees on the part of some city residents, who claim that woods harbor criminals and rats. Large trees on private property are being removed at a relentless pace. Mother nature also takes her toll on our trees in the form of extreme weather events and disease.

Ironically, the more trees we lose, the more we need them. A healthy city has at least 40% tree canopy; we are at 28% and, from the rampant damage I see, losing rather than gaining ground. There have got to be more serious protections for trees on both public and private property.

What if Baltimore were to put forward an ambitious and bold plan for restoring the urban forest? What if we were to gain a reputation for being visionary in our protection of our green spaces, and what if we could inspire other cities to enact strong, enforceable tree ordinances? You have the ability and the power to do that. I trust you will and thank you for passing this legislation.

Sincerely,

Anne Colgan
1231 Roundhill Road.
Baltimore 21218

Peters, Matthew (City Council)

From: Kyle Long <kylerrlong92@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 30, 2020 5:49 PM
To: Peters, Matthew (City Council); Costello, Eric (City Council); Reisinger, Edward (City Council); Sneed, Shannon (City Council); Clarke, MaryPat (City Council); Pinkett, Leon2 (City Council); Stokes, Robert (City Council); Bullock, John (City Council)
Subject: Comments re: CB 20-0546 Natural Resources - Forest and Tree Conservation

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To Eric Costell and members of the Judiciary Committee ,

Thank you for your consideration of this issue. It is of great importance to protect and expand the tree canopy and preserve the natural spaces of our city, as per the Sustainability Plan put forth by the city.

I am a neighbor of the site of the Christopher Cemetery and as a member of the Westfield community, we have been struggling to preserve our neighborhood forested spaces. Especially as it pertains to this site, there are several large trees on surrounding properties, of DBH greater than 20 and should thus be considered in a proper stand delineation, would be greatly impacted and damaged due to construction of houses on the site. Based on the current site plan, the critical root zones of these trees will be greatly impacted and in some cases there would be pipes placed within this area, essentially killing those trees.

There also needs to be increased protection for forested/ natural spaces from the pressures of development. We are not currently in line with goals set out in the sustainability plan (40% tree canopy, park within 1/4 mile, storm water protection, habitat etc) and with the real and present threat of the climate crisis (90+ degree days, erratic weather), which I might add will only get worse, it is essential that action be taken immediately to protect our forests and natural spaces. They are vital to the public well being and good of our city. Farms and other agricultural spaces need to be given special designation and protection and they, like forests, are vital city infrastructure. Many farms have taken measures to build forest canopies and this work needs to be acknowledged through the protection of these spaces.

Thank you,
Kyle Long

