

Your Community Impact Statement has been successfully submitted to City Council and Committees.

If you have questions and/or concerns, please contact the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment at NCsupport@lacity.org.

This is an automated response, please do not reply to this email.

Contact Information

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The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(13) Nay(0) Abstain(0) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 05/05/2022

Type of NC Board Action: For

Impact Information

Date: 05/07/2022

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 15-0499-S2

Agenda Date: 05/10/2022

Item Number: 12 on PLUM special agenda

Summary: The United Neighborhoods of the Historic Arlington Heights, West Adams, and Jefferson Park Neighborhood Council (UNNC) is concerned with Tree Equity in the city's low-canopy neighborhoods, including our own. We support the motion presented by Councilmember Marqueece Harris Dawson to instruct city departments including the Planning Department, Community Forest Advisory Committee, the City's Forest Officer and City Attorney to: 1) prepare a report in 30 days with recommendations relative to ongoing tree and biodiversity planning, strategies and/or efforts to protect and grow the City's urban canopy, as previously instructed by the Council; and 2) provide recommendations to require the placement of trees and timing of any tree removals at an earlier phase in the land use/environmental review, and permitting review process, thereby maximizing efforts to grow tree canopy coverage. The UNNC community has witnessed the destruction of our tree canopy by developers and unknowing residents. We should not be forced to sacrifice our tree canopy due to the poor planning and coordination of agencies. The loss of our mature tree canopy cannot simply be replaced by planting more trees. It will take decades for young trees to grow the leaf shade offered by mature trees with large canopies. While data continues to be gathered to demonstrate this disparity, countless trees are being destroyed – exacerbating the inequity in real-time. The City needs to improve its timely continuity of review between departments, and its communication to communities during the tree analysis portion of the proposed project review process. The UNNC strongly supports the motion, which will provide greater guidance for City agencies to preserve and protect our mature tree canopy and will place the Urban Forestry Division foremost in the tree evaluation process, thereby protecting more trees. Mature trees are irreplaceable assets adding priceless benefits to our overall quality of life.