



CITY OF PORTLAND
URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION
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AMANDA FRITZ, COMMISSIONER

MIKE ABBATÉ, DIRECTOR

January 4, 2017

Mayor Ted Wheeler and Members of Portland City Council
Portland City Hall
1221 SW Fourth Avenue
Portland, OR 97204

Subject: Regulatory Improvement Code Amendment Package 8 (RICAP 8)

Dear Mayor Wheeler and City Commissioners:

On December 7, 2016, the Urban Forestry Commission (UFC) held a public hearing on the Regulatory Improvement Code Amendment Package 8 (RICAP 8). This package addresses a variety of minor policy and technical amendments to Portland's Tree Code (Title 11, Trees) and Zoning Code (Title 33, Planning and Zoning). Proposed changes to the Tree Code include an increase to the allowable fine for unlawful damage or removal of a Heritage Tree on private property, clarification on how tree protection requirements apply in certain situations, updates to how dead, dying, and dangerous trees are addressed as a part of tree preservation requirements, and others. Tree-related changes in the Zoning Code included updates to the tree preservation amenity bonus in multi-family projects and updates to the non-conforming upgrade threshold.

At the hearing, we heard positive testimony from stakeholders related to the proposed changes. The UFC voted unanimously to recommend approval of the package of RICAP proposed amendments. Generally, the UFC expressed strong support for the regulations, with some minor recommended changes to clarify language in three of the RICAP items that are captured in the *RICAP 8 Recommended Draft*.

Recommendations

The UFC recommends that City Council take the following actions:

1. Adopt the *RICAP 8: Recommended Draft*, dated January 2017; and
2. Amend the Zoning Code (Title 33) and Tree Code (Title 11) as shown in *RICAP 8: Recommended Draft*.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the review of this project and for considering our recommendations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mark Bello".

Mark Bello, Chair
Urban Forestry Commission