



To: Programs & Services Committee

From: Councilors Malakie & Norton

Date: Sept 16, 2022

RE: Explanation of Attached Tree Ordinance Items #405-22 and #411-22 for Programs & Services Committee 9/21/22 meeting

Attached you will find several items related to Docket Items #405-22 and #411-22, offered by city councilors for strengthening Newton's current tree ordinance:

1. Letter of support from Quinton Zondervan who led the Cambridge City Council's successful 2021 effort to enact tree protection reforms
2. Letter of support from some environmentally-minded organizations and individuals
3. Proposed language for a temporary moratorium on tree removal (#405-22) offered by Councilors Malakie, Norton, Lucas, Humphrey, and Oliver
4. A five-page chart comparing major provisions of the current ordinance, Mayor Fuller's docket item on the ordinance, the Council's docket item (# 411-22), and the tree protections in the current City of Cambridge ordinance
5. Proposed language for docket item (#411-22) offered by Councilors Malakie, Norton, Leary, Ryan, Wright, Lucas, Humphrey, Bowman, Markiewicz, Oliver, Downs, Laredo, and Grossman
6. A two-page document, "Why Newton Needs a New Tree Ordinance," with links to the pertinent scientific data behind our draft ordinance.

Please also note that at this morning's meeting, the Newton Urban Tree Commission voted to endorse the temporary moratorium.

We appreciate Mayor Fuller expressing her agreement with us that the current tree ordinance needs strengthening, by virtue of her docketed item. The one filed by councilors goes further, however, and contains crucial provisions to protect our tree canopy. We look forward to the committee discussion.