

# Citizens Group

## Blended Draft *Tree Ordinance*

Solves Problems, Closes loopholes

Vetted by Industry Professionals

Simple, Clear, Consistent

# Planning Dept's Tree Ordinance Draft

- Some additions are positive and Planning Dept team worked with Citizens Group
- But important parts are regressive with loopholes
- Some parts are complicated and unworkable
- In some ways the current TPO works better

# The Citizens Blended Draft

- Citizens Group takes best of the Planning Dept draft, but fixes the loopholes and has clearer, simpler language
- Blended Draft protects trees and makes a more consistent process for builders

# Appeals

- Planning Dept eliminates public appeals, with only a private process for immediate neighbors
- Blended Draft restores tree appeals to any citizen within the NPU or an adjacent NPU

# Protection for Existing Trees

- Planning Dept draft allows Priority trees to be cut before any protections apply, even if a builder doesn't need to cut them
- Blended draft removes this loophole and equally protects all Priority Trees

# Pre-Application Conference

- Planning Dept draft mentions the Pre-Application Conference but includes limited vague criteria
- Blended Draft has clear, consistent standards to ensure a smooth and practical use of the Pre-Application Conference
- Pre-Application Conference helps most builders and developers, and reduces appeals

# Multifamily, Commercial, Subdivisions

- Planning Dept draft has zero tree protection for multifamily, commercial or subdivision sites
- Blended draft includes minimum protection for trees on all properties, especially residential
- Blended draft includes innovative concepts of “cluster design” and “cap and trade” to encourage permanent protection of trees and greenspace while allowing flexibility in site plans

# Penalties for Illegal Tree Removal

- Planning Dept. draft includes registering tree cutters to work in the City, but gives only a written warning for the first illegal tree removal
- Blended Draft adds stronger penalties for illegal tree cutting, including revoking a license to cut trees in the City for 3-5 years for repeat violators



# Priority Tree Values

- Planning Dept draft undervalues trees – so even champion trees of some species would not qualify as Priority trees
- Blended Draft tree values are science-based, in a comprehensive, easy-to-use chart

# Trees in Setbacks

- Planning Dept draft removes protection for trees in setbacks, including Priority Trees
- Blended Draft restores current protections for trees in setbacks

# Recompense and Replanting

- Planning Dept. has complicated planting requirements, including planting trees on private property that cannot be tracked, and allows no recompense to be paid
- Blended Draft is much simpler: recompense is paid for trees cut, trees are replanted where there's room, discounts given for new trees

# Citizens Blended Draft

## Simple, Fair, Consistent Standards that Protect Trees for a Better Atlanta

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