

January 24, 2022

- SENT VIA E-MAIL ONLY – FOR SUBMISSION TO TONIGHTS MEETING

City Manager
555 Liberty St., SE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: for submission to 1/24/22 City Council Meeting addressing Tree Preservation Amendment (SRC Chapter 808)

Dear Salem City Council,

I am writing to urge you to adopt the amendments in SRC Chapter 808, which are being addressed at tonight's meeting. Following is a current example of how the amendment could have a strong impact.

As a resident of Ward 6, I am particularly concerned about the mixed-use development being planned for the remaining open space that lies south of the new Jory Apartment Complex extending to Center St. This area has also been called the North Campus or former State Hospital grounds. The State of Oregon is actively looking to sell or lease this land to a developer.

Since most of the trees on the North Campus were obliterated before the construction of the Jory Apartment Complex, I am very concerned about the plight of the trees that remain on the south side.

There are some old trees that live in the undeveloped south side of the North Campus. One of my favorites is a very old tall evergreen Incense Cedar Tree. I would definitely consider this a *Significant Tree* as it meets and well exceeds the diameter trunk requirements of over dbh 30 inches or greater. The lot size for this area is also much larger than 20,000 sft. Incense Cedar Trees provide lush foliage, are drought resistant and very adaptable and can live to 100 – 500 years of age.

I would like to propose an idea I have that would meet the *Reasonable Design Alternatives* to enable the preservation of the old Cedar, as well as other mature trees currently on this lot.

My idea is to parcel out the available lot and create a food cart establishment in the area closest to Center St where the mature trees and green space reside. A food cart area could be placed around the existing trees, thus preserving the trees and they would also provide shade and shelter for the carts and patrons alike. And, the developers could still have their mixed-use buildings and parking lots north of the food carts and just south of Jory Apartments, as there are less trees in this area. I feel this could be a win for all: developers, residents who live in the neighborhood, the abundance of employees who work nearby, a place for small businesses to run their food cart business and would also save the mature trees from destruction. The trees

would also act as a buffer and screen for the apartments and proposed mixed use development.

This idea is a personal example of a *reasonable design alternative* that would enable the preservation of significant trees that live in what little natural world remains on the North Campus due to the present development of Jory Apartments as well as the current proposal of mixed-use buildings in the remaining area.

I ask why can't the significant trees remain, by allowing food carts to mingle in between, creating an eatery and hub within walking distance for the community and still develop some mixed-use buildings in the area that is not so populated with trees? I don't think it has to be an either/or scenario, but could include both. Creative solutions can be found, where significant trees can be preserved and mixed-use development can still be accomplished. It is a matter of sharing the space and viewing it from a wider perspective. How does the space serve the neighborhood, as well as the city's need for expanded housing?

Do we want to live in a city of buildings and cement and newly planted trees, or can we find a way to save the old growth of significant trees and create a space for people to gather, eat, share community resources, etc? There is already are big boulders of buildings across Center St, which is the State Hospital. And, now with the building of the three-story Jory Apartments and surrounding perimeter of 2 story houses, there is so much loss of space, greenery, trees and the ability to connect outside and sit and peacefully and be with nature. I think both can occur if Salem can expand its vision of more housing while maintaining the beauty of mature trees, and peaceful green space with benches, tables, chairs for all to gather.

I believe the quality of life in cities is enhanced when they have a canopy of mature trees. The old growth Incense Cedar and other mature trees provide so much for our neighborhood and for the city as a whole. Mature trees store a lot more carbon than young trees, and therefore help to clean the air. They also provide habitat and food for wildlife and pollinators and create natural beauty for residents, improving both mental and physical well-being.

Thank you for considering my idea, as well as my support for the Tree Preservation Amendments (SRC Chapter 808.)

Sincerely,

Julie Frasier
1243 24th St NE
Salem, OR 97301