

From: [REDACTED]
To: [PARKS, RECREATION & OPEN SPACE](#)
Subject: : Proposed Removal of two Liquidambar Trees at 1431 and 1433 Washington Avenue Public Hearing Thursday, September 9 at 7 pm
Date: Tuesday, September 6, 2022 2:24:35 PM

Warning: This email originated from outside the City of Albany. Think before you click!

Dear Ms. Leduc,

I am unable to find the email addresses of the PROSC members on the Albany City website. It would be helpful if this information would be easily accessible.

I assume you have that information as the liaison for the Commission.

Would you please forward this letter to the members of the PROSC prior to the September 9, 2022 hearing regarding the removal of two trees on Washington Avenue.

Julia Price

Angela Armendariz

Brian Beall

Christopher Kent

Tod Abbott

Bryan Marten

Julia Chang Frank

Thank you,

Ingrid Haubrich

Begin forwarded message:

To: jhawkridge@albanyca.org

Cc: citycouncil@albanyca.org

Subject: Proposed Removal of two Liquidambar Trees at 1431 and 1433 Washington Avenue Public Hearing Thursday, September 9 at 7 pm

Dear Mr. Hawkridge,

I am a long time Albany resident and very concerned about the frequent and apparently routinized removal of mature Liquidambar trees from our City streets.

I recently saw another notice of the planned removal of TWO gorgeous shade trees in my neighborhood, this time in front of 1431 Washington Avenue and 1433 Washington Avenue, between San Carlos and Carmel.

I am trying to understand why this keeps happening, especially in light of rising temperatures and climate change. These large trees keep our houses and sidewalks cool. Liquidambar trees can live for over 400 years!

I am interested in understanding the process of how these trees are chosen for removal and who makes these decisions.

I understand that you, as the Urban Forester, have quite a bit of input and power in the decision to remove these trees.

In light of this, I would like to see your report to the Park and Rec commission explaining the reasons for the removal of the Washington Avenue trees. I assume that report is (or should be) available to the public.

In addition, I have the following questions which I would like you to answer before the Public Meeting on September 9 at 7 pm.

1. How much does it cost to cut down a Liquidambar tree like the one scheduled for removal on at 1431 Washington Avenue?
2. How much does it cost to remove the TWO trees, as proposed, on 1431 and 1433 Washington Avenue?
3. What City funds are used to pay for the cutting down of these trees?
4. How many Liquidambar trees have been cut down by the City over the past 10 years? How many in the past 5 years? How many in the past 2 years?
5. The homeowners at 1431 AND 1433 Washington DID NOT REQUEST REMOVAL OF THE TREES. If you initiated the removal, what are your reasons?
6. Are the trees diseased or infested in any way? I notice you did not check the box on the application that the trees were diseased. In other words, are these healthy trees?
7. If the trees are not diseased, what is their physical condition that constitutes an “unacceptable risk to the City.”
8. What options are there other than cutting down these trees?
9. Please provide the pruning or maintenance history of the tree at 1431 and the tree at 1433 Washington. When were they last pruned?
10. If falling limbs is an issue, do you or the City require that these limbs ever removed before they become a problem?
11. Is the public interest considered in keeping mature trees in our City when recommending removal, such as climate change or increased heat in adjacent houses or sidewalks.
12. Is it correct that the sidewalks in front of 1431 and 1433 Washington were recently repaired and are in perfect condition, with no root damage or other safety issues that would affect pedestrians or wheelchair users.

I would appreciate a copy of your report to the Commission recommending the removal of the Washington Avenue trees, and your response to my questions prior to the September 9 hearing.

Thank you,

Ingrid Haubrich







