From: [redacted]
To: PARKS, RECREATION & OPEN SPACE
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Public Comment for September 8, 2022 Public Meeting Request to the PROSC for a Continuance of two months regarding the proposed Non-Emergency Removal of Albany Liquidambar Trees, including the Washington Ave trees.
Date: Thursday, September 8, 2022 7:59:16 PM

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Request to the PROSC for a Continuance of two months regarding the proposed Non-Emergency Removal of Albany Liquidambar Trees, including the Washington Ave trees.

Dear Commissioners,
My name is Ingrid Haubrich. I live in Albany at 732 Santa Fe Avenue and have lived there for over 30 years. I am very concerned about the survival of our large shade trees in Albany, particularly the two Liquidambars on Washington Ave.

1. As to the planned removal of these trees, I want to let the Commission know that we are forming a group of Albany residents to explore options and alternatives to the removal of large shade trees, mainly Liquidambar, from our community.
The Urban Forrester states that 21 Liquidambar trees have been cut down in the past 6 years. His estimate for removal of the two Washington Avenue tree is $6000 per tree, so cutting down 21 trees cost the city approximately $120,000. 21 trees is a lot of trees and $120,000 is a lot of money.
2. Our group wants to explore alternatives to removal. To do this, we want to hire at our own expense an independent arborist to explore whether removal is indeed necessary or whether alternatives exist.
3. I note that the application before you for the removal of these trees is a non-emergency request.
4. I am asking the Commission to grant a continuance of 2 months for us to hire and pay for an independent arborist to determine whether removal is necessary or whether other measures can be taken to save these trees.
5. I note that the city arborist did not check the box that these trees are diseased on the notice attached to the trees, but now maintains that at least one of the trees is diseased. I am confused by this discrepancy.
6. I also question the City arborists recommendation that TWO trees on Washington have to be cut down because one is unlikely to survive by itself.
7. I note that the arborist made a similar recommendation recently to cut down two large Liquidambars on Santa Fe and Solano. I would like an independent arborist to determine whether this is a correct recommendation as to both the Santa Fe and Washington Avenue trees.
8. I also question whether regular maintenance and pruning of these trees and removal of weak limbs does not work with these trees.
9. I also question the choices regarding the trees planted to replace these trees. I would like to confirm that Red Maples are the best choice.
In conclusion, I ask the Commission to postpone any action on the non-emergency removal of

Liquidambar trees for a two month period until an independent arborist hired at our expense, has determined such removal is necessary, and no alternatives to removal exist. Such an arborist may very well agree that these trees have to be removed, but I think an independent assessment will be helpful since tree removal seems to be initiated by the Urban Forester without adequate public input. We want to be involved in this process from the beginning. I would ask the Commission to grant a two month continuance for that purpose. We care deeply about our trees and love the fact that Albany has so many large shade trees, including liquidambars. We want to keep Albany beautiful.
Thank you.
Ingrid Haubrich