



THE TREE NEXT DOOR

"An organization of neighbors dedicated to protecting Atlanta's tree canopy"

Peter Aman, COO
City of Atlanta

March 21, 2011

Re: Law Department Investigative Report, Arborist Division 2.28.11

Dear Peter:

I am writing to you to express my great disappointment in the referenced report prepared by Jeffery Norman, Compliance Manager, Law Department.

It is not a forensic analysis as I had expected but, a conversation with the very people whose veracity is in question. This conversation was limited to only employees of the City of Atlanta. Those 'certain people' as referred to by Ainsley Caldwell were never contacted to participate in the dialogue.

It is several of those 'certain people' who dedicated years of pro bono time to creating a Tree Conservation Commission and one of the finest Tree Protection Ordinances in the nation, which also includes a Tree Trust Fund to replant Atlanta's urban forest.

The beneficiaries of that dedication are the citizens of Atlanta. Millions of Tree Trust Fund dollars have been provided to Trees Atlanta and the Parks Department to plant thousands of trees in public spaces.

Ironically, the other beneficiaries of Tree Trust Fund monies are those very individuals -- Caldwell, Domengeaux and Franklin -- who are under investigation. The Tree Trust Fund those 'certain people' created is paying their salaries. How wasteful!

You need to make Norman own up to this egregious report. You requested it, now do the "right thing". Make the Mayor and us proud!

Attached is a detailed rebuttal to Jeffery Norman's Pretend Investigation.

I look forward to hearing back from you as to your next actions on this very important matter.

Very truly yours,

Shel Schlegman, Chair
The Tree Next Door

treenextdoor.org