

BUCKHEAD COUNCIL

of NEIGHBORHOODS

A RESOLUTION BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE BUCKHEAD COUNCIL OF NEIGHBORHOODS

WHEREAS, the Buckhead Council of Neighborhoods (BCN) is a 501(c)(4) nonprofit established in 2008 to provide a unified voice to address and protect the common interests and quality of life issues shared by all Buckhead neighborhoods;

WHEREAS, the Buckhead Council of Neighborhoods is concerned about the lack of transparency and public input in the rewrite of Atlanta's Tree Protection Ordinance (ATPO), and the lack of enforcement of six specific sections of the ATPO which include:

Section 158-106, which requires on-site preconstruction conferences prior to site disturbance;

Section 158-34(c), which requires enhanced tree protection (chain link or wooden fencing) on construction sites that do not maintain mesh tree protection fences;

Section 158-103(f), which requires quarterly reports on the activities of the Arborist division of the department;

Section 158-101(e)(4), which establishes procedures for postings prior to tree removal;

Section 158-63(5), which requires the preparation of a Master Plan for the urban forest of Atlanta; and

Section 158-63(4), which requires the establishment of Standards of Practice for the Arborist division;

WHEREAS, the lack of current enforcement of these six sections is resulting in extensive tree loss in Buckhead neighborhoods and a lack of planning for the City's overall tree canopy;

THEREFORE, the Buckhead Council of Neighborhoods requests that:

1. The Department of City Planning provide specific details about the tree ordinance rewrite process in terms of the names of the specific individuals who are rewriting the ordinance, estimated timeline for first and subsequent draft reviews by the general public, and how public feedback will be incorporated in the rewrite;
2. The Arborist Division and the Department of Parks and Recreation comply with the Atlanta Tree Protection Ordinance as follows:
 - Section 158-106: Require that an on-site conference be held between the developer and the city arborist for a final tree fence inspection before any demolition, grading, or construction begins;
 - Section 158-34(c): Require enhanced tree protection (chain link or wooden fencing) on all heavy construction sites or sites that do not maintain mesh tree protection fences;
 - Section 158-103(f): Commit to a definite date for production of the required quarterly report to resume;

- Section 158-101(e)(4): Post notices of preliminary approval to remove trees (yellow signs) in the office of the city arborist that issued the approval, and commit to a definite date for yellow sign postings on private property to begin appearing on the City website as the City currently does for public property;
- Section 158-63(5): Commit to a definite date for when there will be a Master Plan prepared for the urban forest of Atlanta; and
- Section 158-63(4): Until new standards of practice are written, adhere to the 2009 Standards of Practice to avoid arbitrary application and decision making, particularly in assessing tree health (DDH evaluations) and keeping field books.