



Interoffice Memorandum

AGENDA ITEM

July 27, 2022

TO: Mayor Jerry L. Demings
— AND —
County Commissioners

FROM: Jon V. Weiss, P.E., Director
Planning, Environmental, and Development
Services Department

CONTACT PERSON: **Alan Marshall, Assistant to the Director
Planning, Environmental, and Development
Services Department
(407) 836-5884**

SUBJECT: August 9, 2022 – Work Session Item
Tree Preservation and Removal Ordinance
Draft Framework

On October 26, 2021 and January 11, 2022, staff provided work sessions relating to a review of the Tree Preservation and Removal Ordinance, located in Chapter 15 as Article VIII, along with related land development codes, to understand the value of our urban tree canopy and determine the effectiveness of County tree protection standards used throughout the development process. The work sessions identified several deficiencies in the current standards and summarized four areas for Board policy consideration; Protecting more trees; Preserving high value trees; Prioritizing Urban Service Area canopy; and Planting more trees. The presentation concluded with an outline of the process for amending our current ordinance, including community engagement, code drafting, and Board adoption.

Over the past several months staff has engaged a variety of stakeholders, such as developers, nursery growers, site planners, academia, and environmental advocates, in order to gain insight needed for proposed new standards. Additionally, staff has made frequent appearances with a variety of County advisory boards to discuss needs, options, and outcomes. On August 9, 2022, staff will provide a work session outlining a proposed framework for tree preservation and removal. Staff's presentation will provide a background of the effort, a review of the stakeholder engagement process, an overview of the proposed framework, and interim actions taken by staff to improve the current process for mass grading applications. Board direction will be sought to determine next steps.

This item is for information purposes only, and no action is required.

JVW/ABM

C: Byron Brooks, AICP, County Administrator
Chris Testerman, AICP, Deputy County Administrator
Joel Prinsell, Deputy County Attorney
Joseph Kunkel, P.E., Director, Public Works Department
Diana M. Almodovar, P.E., Deputy Director, Public Works Department
Dale Mudrak, P.E., Manager, Development Engineering Division
Jennifer Moreau, Manager, Zoning Division