



## **Comment on Orange County Tree Ordinance**

**Good morning Commissioners and Mayor, my name is Chuck O'Neal representing Speak Up Wekiva, 2329 Park Village Place, Apopka, Florida. I have three points to make regarding the Orange County Tree Ordinance.**

**First, from my personal experience I have seen provisions in well-meaning development orders completely ignored by site clearing subcontractors. For instance, in the development order for Princeton Oaks, the City of Orlando specified that only the trees necessary for the project's completion could be removed. Days later, not a blade of grass or any living thing remained on that property. The only thing site development companies don't destroy are areas marked off with flags or GPS pins. Therefore, I recommend the County require 40% of any development parcel be left in its natural, wooded state. The difference in units can be made up in density of the remaining 60%.**

**Secondly, for existing residential properties, a significant tax exemption should be made available to property owners who maintain a desired land area to combined tree diameter ratio.**

**Thirdly, the 24 inch diameter at breast height for tree protection does not allow for younger trees to grow into an urban forest to replace the older trees as they die off. That minimum diameter figure should be reduced.**

For further information:  
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