

From: [Sandra Ward](#)
To: [Plan Commission Comments](#)
Subject: Agenda item 2 legistar 89254
Date: Friday, August 22, 2025 8:19:53 AM

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I am writing in support of item 89254.

As climate change intensifies it is critical to understand that canopy trees are an essential component of our city's infrastructure, not simply an amenity.

As we continue to build greater density, as we should, we need also to protect the trees we have. Trees make new developments more valuable and contribute to livable density. We are not in an either/or situation, we can have density and we can save trees. And saving trees is what the proposed ordinance change will do.

At the present time, it is common for developers to cut down large trees on private property to make way for the construction of large buildings. That is their right. We can't prevent someone from cutting down a tree on private property, but we can and should protect street trees, the trees that grow in our terraces. In fact, because so many trees on private property are sacrificed for density, every single street tree we have is even more precious. And that is particularly true in our downtown areas.

Our current ordinances do not sufficiently protect street trees during construction. Recent experiences with tree damage on the 500 block of west Main St show that to be the case with crystal clarity. The proposed ordinance changes are a crucial step in the right direction in that they bring tree protection up front in the planning process, create effective tree protection zones, and establish a fund to support our tree canopy.

I urge your support for these changes. We need this ordinance to ensure the future livability of a denser Madison.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter,

Sandra Ward

Co-Chair CNI Tree Preservation and Planting Committee