

From: [Karen Uhlenhuth](#)
To: [Public Testimony](#)
Subject: support ordinance #200961
Date: Tuesday, December 13, 2022 11:21:35 AM

Hello.

I live in Midtown Kansas City and am very concerned about the breakdown of our climate. It's become clear that our carbon emissions are playing a significant role in weather disasters in this region and around the world.

That's one major reason why I am so pleased to learn that the city is considering an ordinance to protect our existing tree stock. Although planting more trees is crucial, our mature trees sequester a lot more carbon than young saplings do, and therefore need to be preserved.

The city council has made a couple of forward-looking decisions lately: to adopt a climate plan, and to require that new construction meet a higher energy-efficiency standard. Let's keep moving in that direction by protecting our tree canopy. Maintaining and enlarging our urban forest is one strategy endorsed in the climate plan.

I have a couple of concerns, however. I wonder how the city will enforce this ordinance. Will it photograph development sites before plans are approved? I could easily imagine a developer taking down trees early in the process in order to avoid this law.

Also, the language doesn't seem to impose any penalty. I think it says that a fine would be negotiated with the city forester. I fear that could lead to either no fine, or a fine so small as to be ineffectual. I know that many other cities impose substantial fines to give their tree laws some backbone.

I think we need to make sure this law will do what it's designed to do.

Thanks very much.

Karen Uhlenhuth

--

*Unless a person like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. it's not.....*Dr, Seuss

Karen Uhlenhuth