

February 6, 2023

Council President Delarian Wiggins
and Members of the Pensacola City Council
222 West Main Street
Pensacola, FL 32502

RE: Council Item 23-00010: Approval to use Tree Planting Trust Funding for the Removal of Trees on City Rights-of-Way or Public Property that have become hazardous to persons and/or property and installation of new plantings

Dear City Council President and Members of City Council:

On behalf of the Environmental Advisory Board (EAB), I am writing to provide a recommendation passed by the EAB at the February 2, 2023, meeting.

Based on the action taken by City Council at the January 19, 2023, meeting regarding the use of Tree Planting Trust Funds for the removal of trees, the EAB held a lengthy discussion of the issue. Based on that discussion, the following recommendation was made, properly seconded and passed on a vote of 7-0 with one absent and one open position:

Recommendation:

The Environmental Advisory Board finds the use of Tree Planting Trust Funds for tree removal to be an inappropriate use of the Tree Planting Trust Funds. The EAB recommendation to City Council is to reallocate the \$100,000 back into the Tree Planting Trust Fund and to encourage the finding of funds from some other source.

The EAB requested this recommendation be forwarded to City Council with the respectful expectation of prompt action consistent with this recommendation and consistent with the requirements of the Tree Planting Trust Fund ordinance: Any expenditure in excess of \$25,000.00 must be approved by the city council **following review by the environmental advisory board.** (emphasis added).

Respectfully submitted,



Kristin Bennett
EAB Chair