



DRAFT - Resolution 2019-XX
REQUESTING NORTH CAROLINA STATE LEGISLATION TO ENACT
A LOCAL BILL FOR THE TOWN OF DAVIDSON TO PROHIBIT THE REMOVAL
OF HERITAGE TREES FROM PROPERTY TO BE DEVELOPED FOR SINGLE-FAMILY
OR DUPLEX RESIDENTIAL USES

WHEREAS, one of the Town of Davidson's core values states, "Citizens must live in a healthy environment, so town government will protect watersheds, trees, air quality, and other elements of the town's ecology;" and

Whereas, a goal in the Town of Davidson's comprehensive plan is to, "Preserve natural habitats, the lakeshore, and the tree canopy;" and

Whereas, one of the land use priorities of the Davidson Board of Commissioners' strategic plan is to revise our tree regulations; and

Whereas, one of the goals of the Davidson Board of Commissioners' strategic plan is to preserve our historic resources, which includes heritage trees; and

Whereas, our belief in the value of our tree canopy is exemplified by our designation as a Tree City USA for eight years; and

Whereas, while the town is diligent about maintaining the tree canopy in existing neighborhoods, we have no enforcement mechanism to provide the same protection in residential neighborhoods currently under construction or planned; and

Whereas, local legislation that was ratified by the North Carolina General Assembly in 1997 prohibits the Town of Davidson from regulating any tree removal from property to be developed for single-family or duplex residential uses; and

Whereas, revising our local legislation to prohibit the removal of heritage trees from property to be developed better reflects the wishes of Davidson citizens and will have an insignificant effect on the ability to develop the property; and

Whereas, many municipalities in the state of North Carolina have the ability to regulate the cutting of trees in planned residential neighborhoods; and

Whereas, the Davidson Board of Commissioners approved a legislative agenda that includes requesting a revision to our local legislation to promote the protection of our large heritage trees; and

Whereas, Davidson citizens requested action to protect our tree canopy, especially heritage trees and have had opportunities to comment on the legislative agenda; and

Whereas, Senator Marcus plans to introduce a Senate Bill which allows the Town of Davidson to regulate the cutting of heritage trees in planned residential developments;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Town of Davidson Mayor and Board of Commissioners on behalf of the citizens of Davidson, do hereby support the proposed Senate Bill and ask that the North Carolina legislature approve the bill in the 2019 legislative session.

Adopted on the XXth day of _____, 2019

Attest:

Elizabeth K. Shores, Town Clerk

Rusty Knox, Mayor

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