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Sent: Thursday, January 22, 2015 2:07 PM

To: Karen Oliver (Contact); City Clerk; Dave Tarter; David Snyder; Nader Baroukh; Marybeth Connelly (City Council); Karen Oliver; Phil Duncan

Cc: Katherine Reich; robert.donaldson@verizon.net Donaldson; dennis.szymanski48@verizon.net dennis.szymanski48@verizon.net; Laurence Dorr; David Chojnacky; <lindyfallsch@aol.com>

Subject: Re: Developer proffers question

Dear City Council Members,

While we realize work has been ongoing for a standard proffer package for commercial and mixed-use developers, we hope the Council's Economic Development Committee will nonetheless give this proposal appropriate consideration for the valued asset that the urban forest is to the community.

The Tree Commission would like to make an earnest request that the City's standard proffer package include **a category for tree preservation and planting actions**, such as improvements to adjacent or nearby streetscape, landscaping or tree canopy, and addition of trees and green space nearby or in the project design. Tree plantings and preservation measures are common development proffers in neighboring counties, but Falls Church City does not currently include these as a distinct and standard request.

We appreciate that recent projects have included standard cash proffers for a general "parks and other" category (see chart attached below). However, our proposed proffer would more specifically result in real improvements through tree plantings, preservation and maintenance and would help relieve the impact on the tree canopy from increasing density and traffic. As an example, a proffer to improve nearby streetscape could mean much needed uniform improvements or new plantings over an entire City block.

This concept is not intended to encourage a waiver of tree replacement or planting requirements in the City Code. The Tree Commission is working on a tree canopy fund program proposal that will address the specific trees that cannot be replaced in a development project. However, standard proffers of tree canopy improvements in kind would no doubt benefit the surrounding areas affected by mixed-use and commercial projects and reflect the high value that City places on its tree canopy and green spaces.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Kathy Philpott Costa
Tree Commission