

October 15, 2015

Mary Cheh  
Council Member, Ward 3  
John O. Wilson Building  
1350 Pennsylvania Ave NW # 108  
Washington, DC 20004

Council Member Cheh:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before the Committee on Public Works and the Environment on October 2<sup>nd</sup>. At that hearing Mr. David Bardin suggested, and your comments seemed to support, relocating the creation of the Tree Canopy Advisory Council (TCAC) – currently housed in the Transportation Reorganization Act of 2015 – to the Tree Canopy Protection Amendment Act of 2015. Casey Trees strongly supports Mr. Bardin’s proposal.

On the pages that follow, please find our suggested edits to the original language. We feel the TCAC as currently written contains some shortfalls that our edits would help to eliminate.

Sincerely,



Mark Buscaino  
Executive Director

cc: Council Member Charles Allen, Ward 6  
Anne Phelps, Legislative Director, Council Member Allen  
Nicole Rentz, Legislative Director, Council Member Cheh

Sec. 305 Tree Canopy Advisory Council

(a) There is established a Tree Canopy Advisory Council.

(b) The TCAC shall be composed of 11 members appointed as follows:

- 1) The Director of the District Department of the Environment, or the Director's designee;
- 2) The Director of the District Department of Transportation, or the Director's designee; and
- 3) The Director of the District Department of Parks and Recreation, or the Director's designee;
- 4) The Director of the District Department of General Services, or the Director's designee;
- 5) The Director of the DC Office of Planning, or the Director's designee;
- 6) The Director of DC Water, or the Director's designee;
- 2)7) The Director of the US Parks Service, National Capital Region, or Director's designee;
- 3) ~~One member appointed by the Chairperson of the Council committee with oversight of the District Department~~
- 4)8) (A) Four community representatives appointed by the Mayor as follows:

One non-profit engaged in urban forestry/tree planting city-wide

Two non-profits engaged in urban forestry/tree planting either city-wide or in an individual neighborhood

One community member engaged in volunteer tree planting/maintenance

(B) The community representatives shall be appointed for a term of 3 years, with initial staggering appointments of 1 community representative appointed for one year, 2 community representative appointed for 3 years. The community representatives to serve the one year term, the community representative to serve the 2-year term, and the community representative to serve the 3-year term shall be determined by lot at the first meeting of TCAC.

(C) Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment to the position that became vacant. Community representatives who are appointed to fill vacancies that occur before the expiration of a community representative's full term shall serve only the unexplained portion of the community representative's term.

(c) ~~The TCAC shall be permanently co-chaired by representatives of DOEE and DDOT. A vice-chair shall be elected among the other members to serve a 2-year term by majority vote of the Committee. A chairperson shall be elected from among the community representatives at the first meeting of the TCAC, for a term of 2 years, and every 2 years thereafter.~~

The TCAC may establish temporary, ad-hoc work committees as necessary to address specific issues.

(d) The District Department of Transportation and District Department of the Environment shall provide the TCAC with an annual operating budget, which shall include funds to maintain a website where TCAC shall provide a public listing of members, meeting notices, and meeting minutes.

(e)(1) The TCAC shall hold at least 4 meetings per year.

(2) The TCAC shall conduct its meetings in compliance with the Open Meetings

Amendment Act of 2010, effective March 31, 2010 (D.C. Law 18-350; D.C. Official Code § 2-571 et seq.).

- (f) The two primary purposes of the TCAC shall be:
- i) to ensure coordination between ~~the~~ District agencies and primary partners engaged in programs and activities geared toward ~~responsible for~~ achieving the District's tree canopy goals, and; to advise those agencies and partners regarding policies, programs, partnerships, funding streams and related resources and the use of funding for the purpose of maintaining, protecting, and increasing the District's tree canopy, and;
  - ii) to create and update the District's Urban Forest Report and Master Plan, to be co-written by DOEE and DDOT with input from the TCAC membership on a five-year rotating basis, aimed at attaining and maintaining of District's 40% canopy goal as articulated in the Sustainable DC Plan.