

## Land Development Code Revisions

My name is Cindi Sullivan and I am the Executive Director of TreesLouisville, a non-profit focused on urban tree canopy preservation, education, and expansion. We were organized after the Louisville Metro Tree Advisory Commission sunsetted in 2015 and part of our mission is to raise public awareness of the incredible environmental, social, economic and aesthetic value of our community tree canopy and the alarming rate of tree loss that we are experiencing here in Louisville. Our community loses 820 acres of tree canopy on a yearly basis - that is more than double the size of Cherokee Park.

It has been my pleasure to work through this very democratic process of developing this ordinance with so many of you. I want to thank first Madonna Flood and Bill Hollander for introducing the resolution in October 2018 leading to this moment today where we have an opportunity to enact significant changes to our Land Development Code that will improve our shared ecosystem. I have had the pleasure of working with Julia Williams (who has done an incredible job facilitating this process!) through not only the SIX public meetings that she hosted, but also dozens of smaller working group meetings that consisted of Julia, Erin Thompson of the Division of Community Forestry, local Landscape Architects that work with various developers, and a BIA member and developer, Mike Jones.

During these working group meetings, we poured over nearly a hundred development plans to ensure that the percentage numbers you have before are realistic and executable. I also met with many of your constituents to discuss this ordinance and the work we do - the common refrain I heard was that we need to do better as a community preserving our tree canopy and that starts with our Land Development Code.

I participated in six public Planning Commission Committee meetings and appreciate their input into this ordinance. I also attended Planning Commission meetings on this topic and was present when the Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the language we had shaped through the public process. I got to know many of you better through various discussions and the committee review process and language was added and subtracted. The point being, these amendments have gone through a very public process of debate, compromise, revisions, and revised revisions!

Make no mistake, this is not a perfect document. It is a start. I believe the level of awareness in both the general public and public officials will make a marked difference for future generations. Many of us are ready to continue strengthening our Land Development Code to preserve our most invaluable common asset - our community tree canopy. The real question now is whether our community is ready to serve as a model of innovation, creativity, and sustainability with an eye towards our children's future.

Having come to know many of you during this process, I believe I know how each of you would answer that question. I hope you will continue to affirm the values of the ordinance and pass this ordinance with a unanimous vote.