

;;;BCC A 10AM-12PM 180618
>>> TO PARAPHRASE JOYCE KILL
HER, I THINK I SHALL NEVER SEE A
HEARING AS LOVELY AS ONE ON
TREES.
IT IS GREAT TO BE WITH YOU ALL
TODAY.
GIVE YOURSELVES A ROUND OF
APPLAUSE.
HONESTLY, I HAD NO IDEA WHEN
COUNCILOR PRESSLEY WROTE THIS
HEARING I HAD NO IDEA THE
INTEREST WOULD BE SO GREAT.
JUST TO SEE ALL OF YOU HERE ON
AN EARLY MONDAY MORNING IS A
TESTAMENT TO HOW IMPORTANT THE
ISSUE THAT WE'RE GOING TO
DISCUSS TODAY.
MY NAME IS MATT O'MALLEY.
I AM PROUD TO BE THE CHAIRMAN OF
THE CITY TOWN'S COMMITTEE ON
ENVIRONMENT, PARKS AND
SUSTAINABILITY.
AND I
MY DEAR COLLEAGUE AND FRIEND
AYANNA PRESSLEY WITH WHOM I
WROTE THIS HEARING ORDER
DISCUSSING THE QUALITY AND
COVERAGE OF THE TREAT CANOPY IN
THE CITY OF BOSTON.
WE'RE GOING TO HEAR FROM OUR
INCREDIBLE PANEL OF
ADMINISTRATIONS, INCLUDING
COMMISSIONER PARKS AND
RECREATION CHRIS COOKE AND HIS
TEAM,
AND EXPERTS ON THIS.
AND THEN PUBLIC TESTIMONY IS
OPEN TO EVERYONE WHO WOULD LIKE
TO SPEAK.
THERE ARE SIGN-IN SHEETS IN THE
BACK.
IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO TESTIFY
PLEASE
BOX NEXT TO THE WORD YES, AND WE
WILL STAY HERE FOR -- UNTIL
EVERYONE HAS AN OPPORTUNITY TO
WEIGH IN ON THIS IMPORTANT
ISSUE.
I OFTEN SAY THAT AS AN
ENVIRONMENTALIST, THE BENEFITS
THAT COME WITH CARING AND
NURTURING AND BUILDING A

STRONGER AND MORE SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT ARE ONES THAT EVERY FISCAL CONSERVATIVE SHOULD APPLY BY.

THE SAME COULD BE SAID FOR TREES.

WE ALL KNOW HOW BEAUTIFUL TREES ARE.

WE ALL KNOW WHAT E%G)MOUSMUR ADVANTAGES AND BmN FITS THEY OFFER, INCLUDINGxD REDUCTION OF STORMWATER RUNOFF,çó HELP AVOID FLOODING,çó RESOSHINGr CARBON EMISSIONS, CREATE MORE COMFORTABLE MICROCLIMATES.

I'M SURE MANY OF US WILL GET AN OPPORTUNITY HOPEFULLY LATER TODAY TO SIT UNDERNEATH A TREE AS THE TEMPERATURES CLIMB INTO THE 90s.

THEY MITIGATE AIR POLLUTION. OTHER COUNTRIES AND OTHER CITIES ARE@"á)jt THE GROWTH OF TREES AS A WAY TO ADDRESS

IN CHINA, THEY ARE LOOKING TO PLANT r6.6 MILLION HECTARES OF NEW FOREST IN THE HEAVILY POLLUTED HUBEI PROVINCE TO ADDRESS ISSUES OF CLIMATE CHANGE.

ADDITIONAL, WE ARE VERY LUCKY TO HAVE, AND WE'RE GOINGM=| HEAR FROM SOME GREAT PARTNERS LATER IN THIS HEARING, I'M SURE, WE HAVE SOME GREAT PARKS, WE HAVE SOME GREAT PLAY GROUNDS, WE HAVE SOME GREAT OPEN SPACE.

MUCH OF WHICH WAS DESIGNED BY FREDRICK WALL NIOLMSTEAD WHO ONCE SAID THE PURPOSE OF URBAN PARKS IS TO PROVIDE THE FEELING OF RELIEF EXPERIENCED BY THOSE ENTERING THEM, IN A SENSEw3 OF Ni ENLARGED FREEDOM.

WE MAY ACTUALLY HEAR FROM MR. OLMSTEAD LATER THIS MORNING, AND I WANT TO MAKE SURE I KNOW WE ALL WANT TOAKE SURE THAT HIS VISION ANDNi THAT ESSENCE OF WHICH HE WRITES IS BROUGHT INTO A REALITY.çó[|Ni

I REMEMBER LONG BEFORE I THINK ANY OF USr WERE SERVING ON ANY CAPACITY, OR IN PARTICULAR ROLES

OF WHICH I'VE BEEN SERVING NOW,
FORMER MAYOR MENINO
HAD AN
AMBITIOUS GOAL TO PLANT 100,000
TREES BY 2020.
WE ARE NOWHERE NEAR TO THAT GOAL
BUT WE'VE DONE SOME GREAT
THINGS.
THE CITY'S DONE SOME GREAT THINGS
IN THAT REGARD. THE CITY'S
EQUITY OF TREES IN BOTH
NEIGHBORHOODS.
OF THOSE COMMUNITIES THAT ARE
MOST VULNERABLE TO CLIMATE AND
SEA LEVEL RISE.
NOW MORE THAN EVER WE ARE
EXTREMELY AWARE OF CLIMATE
CHANGE AND THE EFFECT ON OUR
SEASONAL TEMPERATURE NORM AND
ONE OF THE MORE PROFOUND
CONSEQUENCES OF THE LOSS OF OUR
TREES, ESPECIALLY OUR MATURE
TREES.
NOW NATIONALLY, AND I'LL BE
CURIOUS TO KNOW WHAT WE'RE
FINDING LOCALLY, BUT NATIONALLY,
30% OF TREES IN AMERICAN CITIES
HAVE
LOST TO DEVELOPMENT.
AND WHILE WE WERE IN THE MIDST
OF OUR THIRD BIGGEST BUILDING
BOOM, AGAIN I'D BE CURIOUS TO
KNOW WHAT THE IMPACT HERE
LOCALLY WITH THE LOSS OF MATURE
TREES, AND WE ALSO KNOW
OFTENTIMES MATURE TREES ARE
BEING UPROOTED BECAUSE THEY ARE
CREATING A PUBLIC SAFETY HAZARD.
AND UPENDING OUR SIDEWALKS, AND
SO, HOW WE ADDRESS TREES, AND
ESPECIALLY MATURE TREES ARE A
VITAL NATURAL RESOURCE OFFERING
DIRECT ECOLOGICAL, ECONOMIC AND
HEALTH BENEFITS TO THE
COMMUNITY.
AND OF COURSE, I KNOW ALL OF YOU
KNOW THIS, AND I'M TALKING TO
THE CHAIR, BUT WE DO HAVE PEOPLE
THAT ARE WATCHING FROM HOME,
SOME WHO HAVE QUESTIONED
ALTHOUGH WE HAVE RECEIVED AN
INCREDIBLE OUTPOURING BOTH IN
E-MAILS AND SOCIAL MEDIA,
INTEREST ABOUT THIS HEARING,

THERE ARE THOSE WHO HAVE
QUESTIONED REALLY WHY DOES THIS
MATTER THAT MUCH.
SO PLEASE INDULGE ME.
TREES PRODUCE A HOST OF POSITIVE
EFFECTS FOR CITIES INCLUDING
REDUCING STORMWATER RUNOFF BY
INTERCEPTING RAIN WATER IN THEIR
CANOPIES AND ROOT SYSTEMS,
MITIGATING THE HEAT ISLAND
EFFECT WHICH LOWERS SURROUNDING
TEMPERATURES AND COOLS INTERNAL
TELL TURN OF NEARBY BUILDINGS.
INCREASING PROPERTY VALUES.
IN SOME CASES BY UP TO 20%.
AND REDUCING RATES OF ASTHMA AND
OTHER RESPIRATORY ILL INNOCENCE.
AND FURTHER STUDIES HAVE SHOWN
THAT IN INNER CITY COMMUNITIES,
ANXIETY, DEPRESSION, AND EVEN
CRIME ARE LOWERED IN A MORE
LANDSCAPED ENVIRONMENT.
SO IT'S TIME WE KEEP PACE WITH
WHAT THE DEMANDS OF CLIMATE ARE,
FORCING US TO DO.
AGAIN THIS IS ABOUT HEALTH.
THIS IS ABOUT EQUITY, THIS IS
ABOUT PUBLIC HEALTH.
THIS IS ABOUT BEAUTIFICATION,
AND THIS IS ABOUT CLIMATE
MITIGATION.
AND SO WE WANT TO ENSURE THAT
EVERY NEIGHBORHOOD IN THE CITY
OF BOSTON HAS AN EQUITY IN ALL
OF THOSE BENEFITS BOTH FROM
PUBLIC HEALTH, FROM
BEAUTIFICATION, AND ALSO CLIMATE
RESILIENCE.
SO I LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING
FROM ALL OF YOU, AND AGAIN I
THANK MY CO-SPONSOR HERE, FOR
PARTNERING WITH ME IN THIS, AND
LET'S GET TO IT.
>> THANK YOU, COUNCIL REMEMBER
PRESSLEY.
BRIEF HOUSEKEEPING ITEMS.
I HAVE THREE LETTERS FROM
COLLEAGUES WHO WILL NOT BE ABLE
TO MAKE IT BUT WILL BE TUNING IN
OR WATCHING THE TAPE AFTER THE
FACT.
THE FIRST IS DISTRICT 1
COUNCILOR LYDIA EDWARDS WHO
WRITES THANK YOU FOR YOUR

LEADERSHIP BRINGING ATTENTION TO THE ISSUE OF THE AMOUNT AND QUALITY OF TREE COVERAGE IN BOSTON THROUGH THIS HEARING.

I SEND MY SINCEREST APOLOGIES FOR MY ABSENCE AS I'VE HAD A LONG-STANDING COMMITMENT.

COUNCIL EDWARDS GOES ON TO GO ON RECORD AND SUPPORT EXPANSION OF TREE COVERAGE ACROSS THE CITY INCLUDING IN THE NEIGHBORHOODS THAT SHE REPRESENTS, EAST BOSTON, CHARLESTOWN, THE NORTH END.

SHE GOES ON TO THANK ADVOCATES, INCLUDING MELINDA VEGA WHO WILL WE HEAR FROM LATER.

SHE LOOKS FORWARD TO CONTINUING THE WORK.

COUNCILOR AT LARGE ANNISSA ESSAIBI-GEORGE WRITES REGRET THAT I'M UNABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN TODAY'S HEARING ON TREE COVERAGE IN BOSTON.

I WOULD LIKE THE RECORD TO REFLECT MY DEEP CONCERN ABOUT THE LOSS OF MATURE TREES AND GREEN SPACE IN THE CITY.

THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE HEALTH OF OUR ENVIRONMENT, OUR QUALITY OF LIFE, OUR OWN HEALTH, CANNOT BE OVERSTATED.

SHE LOOKS FORWARD TO ONGOING ATTENTION TO THIS ISSUE.

AND FINALLY, AT-LARGE COUNCILOR MICHELLE WU WRITES THAT DUE TO A SON'S CLD CARE FACILITY IS CLOSED TODAY SO SHE'LL BE WATCHING FROM HOME RATHER THAN ENJOYING THE HEARING IN PERSON.

THANK YOU TO THE SPONSORS AND ADVOCATES FOR CONTINUING TO REMIND US HOW IMPORTANT OUR TREE CANOPY IS FOR FIGHTING FOR CLIMATE CHANGE.

THIS IS BEING BROADCAST LIVE AND STREAMED ONLINE.

SO AGAIN PLEASE NOTE WE HEAR FROM YOU LATER IN TESTIMONY, IT'S PART OF THE PUBLIC RECORD, AND SO LET'S GET RIGHT INTO THE FIRST PANEL.

KYLE WILL INTRODUCE.

IF YOU WANT TO INTRODUCE

YOURSELF AND THE PANEL AND WE'LL
GET INTO SOME Q&A.

>> THANK YOU, COUNCILOR
O'MALLEY.

I'M CARL SPECTER, COMMISSION OF
THE ENVIRONMENT.

I'LL LET THE OTHER MEMBERS
INTRODUCE THEMSELVES.

>> CHRIS COOK COMMISSIONER OF
BOSTON PARKS AND RECREATION.

>> ELIZA MYER CHIEF LANDSCAPE
ARCHITECT BOSTON PARKS.

>> GREG FOSTER TREE WARDEN.

>> MAXWELL DIAMOND, DEPUTY TREE
WARDEN, BOSTON PARKS.

>> I AM DELIGHTED TO BE
SURROUNDED BY MY COLLEAGUES FROM
THE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND
RECREATION WHO WILL BE ABLE TO
GIVE A LOT OF DETAIL TO I THINK
THE QUESTIONS THAT YOU WILL
HAVE.

I WILL MAKE A FEW BRIEF OPENING
REMARKS AND THEN COMMISSIONER
COOK WILL AND WE'LL BE HAPPY TO
ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS.

THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO
TESTIFY TODAY CONCERNING
BOSTON'S URBAN FOREST, AND ITS
RELATIONSHIP TO IMPORTANT
ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE
CONCERNS.

YOU HAVE ALREADY DESCRIBED THE
MANY BENEFITS TO PUBLIC HEALTH,
COMMUNITY LIFE, ENVIRONMENTAL
QUALITY, AND THE LOCAL ECONOMY
FROM A ROBUST URBAN FOREST.

BECAUSE OF THIS VALUE, IMAGINE
BOSTON, THE MAYOR'S PLAN FOR
BOSTON FOR THE NEXT 15 YEARS,
STATES THAT WE WILL COLLABORATE
WITH THE BOSTON WATER AND SEWER
COMMISSION TO EXPAND GREEN
INFRASTRUCTURE SYSTEMS, AND THE
TREE CANOPY TO IMPROVE BOSTON'S
ABILITY TO MANAGE STORMWATER,
REDUCE RUNOFF TO IMPROVE WATER
QUALITY AND MITIGATE THE URBAN
HEAT ISLAND EFFECT.

SIMILARLY, AND EARLIER, THE
MAYOR'S 2014 CLIMATE ACTION PLAN
INCLUDES THE ACTION CREATE A
CLEAR ACTIONABLE TREE CANOPY
PLAN TO INCREASE TREE CANOPY

COVERAGE TO 35% BY 2030.
THIS WILL CONTRIBUTE TO OUR
EFFORTS BOTH IN CLIMATE
ADAPTATION, AND IN GREEN HOUSE
GAS REDUCTION.
THE COMMITMENT, AS YOU POINTED
OUT, TO INCREASE THE TREE CANOPY
GOES BACK TO THE PREVIOUS
ADMINISTRATION.
WHEN THE CITY WAS A MEMBER OF
THE BOSTON URBAN FOREST
COALITION.
A COLLABORATION NO LONGER
EXISTING OF NONPROFIT, CITY,
STATE AND FEDERAL ORGANIZATIONS.
AS NOTED IN THE CITY'S ORIGINAL
2007 CLIMATE ACTION PLAN, IN
APRIL 2007, THE BOSTON URBAN
FOREST COALITION ANNOUNCED AN
AMBITIOUS PROGRAM, GROW BOSTON
GREENER, THAT AIMS TO PLANT
100,000 ADDITIONAL TREES ON
PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PROPERTIES IN
BOSTON, GROWING THE CITY'S
CANOPY COVER.
AN IMPORTANT ASPECT OF THE 2007
GOAL, AND OF THE MORE RECENT
RESTATEMENTS, IS THAT THIS
EFFORT INVOLVES MANY PARTNERS,
AND REQUIRES THE UTILIZATION OF
PUBLIC AND PRIVATE RESOURCES.
FOLLOWING THE 2007 ANNOUNCEMENT,
THE CITY ESTABLISHED SOME GRANT
PROGRAMS TO INCENTIVIZE THE
PLANTING OF TREES BY
NEIGHBORHOOD GROUPS.
ANOTHER IMPORTANT STEP WAS THE
CITY OF BOSTON'S COMPLETE STREET
GUIDELINES, WHICH PROVIDE
DETAILED INFORMATION ABOUT THE
INCLUSION OF TREES AND RAIN
GARDENS AND THE STREET SCAPE.
AND OVER THE YEARS, AS CHRIS
WILL DESCRIBE, THE CITY'S OWN
INVESTMENT OF RESOURCES HAS
INCREASED.
GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE AND TREES
REMAIN AN IMPORTANT COMPONENT OF
THE CITY'S CLIMATE AND
SUSTAINABILITY PLANS.
THANK YOU AGAIN FOR THE
OPPORTUNITY TO BE HERE TODAY,
AFTER COMMISSIONER COOK'S
REMARKS WE WILL BE HAPPY TO

ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS.

>> THANK YOU, COMMISSIONER.

I'M BE VERY BRIEF.

IN OUR FINAL TREE CANOPY WAS COMPLETED IN DECEMBER 2017.

IT'S IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT THIS WAS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND.

IT WAS CONDUCTED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT AND IT CONCLUDED THAT ROUGHLY 27% -- WE HAVE 27% FREE CANOPY COVERAGE IN THE CITY OF BOSTON.

IT'S VERY, VERY IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT THIS STUDY WAS BASED ON 2014 LIDAR FLYOVER DATA. SO IT'S REALLY AN APPROXIMATION OF WHAT THE TREE CANOPY WAS IN 2014.

SO MOVING FORWARD WE'LL HAVE TO BE AGGRESSIVE ABOUT LOOKING AT FURTHER STUDIES TO MAKE SURE WE CAN ASSESS PROPERLY WHERE WE ARE AND WHAT OUR GOALS WILL BE FROM THAT.

I WANT TO REMARK TO THE COUNCIL THAT IT'S VERY, VERY IMPORTANT THAT TREE CANOPY COVERAGE IS IN RELATION TO HEALTHY TREE CANOPY. SO THAT END IN ADDITION TO OUR PLANTING AND OUR PRUNE PG DOLLARS THAT WE RECEIVE FROM THE CITY BUDGET, MAYOR WALSH WITH THE CITY COUNCIL'S HOPEFUL FINAL APPROVAL HAS ALLOCATED \$100,000 FOR TREES AND PARKS.

THE REASON THIS IS IMPORTANT IS NOT THAR MANY YEARS WE WERE NOT ABLE TO PROPERLY MAINTAIN THE TREE CANOPY IN OUR PARKLAND. THIS PARKLAND ACTUALLY SERVES AS A VITAL RESOURCE FOR THE OVERALL TREE CANOPY.

I'D ALSO BE REMISS IF I DIDN'T RECOGNIZE THE HARD -- WORKING MEMBERS OF THE URBAN FORESTRY DIVISION.

JOE DEMOORE, DANIEL ROSS, STEVEN KENDALL, MAX FORD DIAMOND, GREG MOSSMAN, ALSO OUR TREE WARDEN. THEY'RE THE FOLKS THAT AT 2:00 A.M. IN THE MORNING ARE RESPONDING TO EMERGENCY CALLS, AND IN ADDITION, THEY'RE HELPING

US PLAN THE CITY AND MAKING SURE THAT WE HAVE ADEQUATE TREE CANOPY.

I ALSO WANT TO THANK ALL THE FRIENDS GROUPS WHO ARE INVOLVED IN EXPANDING THE TREE CANOPY AND ALSO TAKING CARE OF THE TREE CANOPY IN THE CITY OF BOSTON.

I'D BE REMISS IF I STARTED NAMING THEM BECAUSE I'D GET IN TROUBLE FOR THE ONE THAT I DIDN'T NAME.

BUT I WANT TO THANK THEM ALL FOR BEING HERE.

I WANT TO THANK THEM FOR THEIR ADDITIONAL SUPPORT.

IN THE INTEREST OF TIME, HAPPY TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS THE COUNCILORS HAVE, BECAUSE I KNOW THERE'S A LOT OF PUBLIC TESTIMONY YOU'RE WAITING FOR.

>> THANK YOU, COMMISSIONER.

ANYONE ELSE HAVE OPENING STATEMENTS OR WANT TO GET RIGHT INTO IT?

OKAY, GREAT.

THANK YOU.

SO, 27% IS THE TREE CANOPY COVERAGE AFTER A -- SO THERE WAS A FLYOVER CONDUCTED IN 2014, COMMISSIONER COOK?

>> YES, SIR.

>> SO 27% AND THE GOAL IS TO GET IT UP TO 35% BY 2030 SO IT'S AMBITIOUS BUT DOABLE, CERTAINLY. THERE WAS ANOTHER, AND I THINK I KNOW THE ANSWER TO THIS QUESTION, M.I.T. HAS A WEBSITE TREEPEDIA, HAS BOSTON AT 18.2% COVERAGE.

THEY SAY THAT THEY USED GOOGLE STREET VIEWS, SORT OF PANORAMA. SO THAT BE SHOTS FROM THE GROUND AS OPPOSED TO FROM THE AIR.

>> MM-HMM.

>> DO YOU THINK THAT EXPLAINS THE DISCREPANCY?

IN OTHER WORDS, CHANCES ARE THE ARBORETUM WOULDN'T HAVE A STREET VIEW ON ALL THE PATHS WITHIN THE PARK.

>> WHEN I'M IN FRONT OF THE CITY COUNCIL I DON'T OFTEN HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PUNT TO A

DOCTORATE FROM BOSTON UNIVERSITY
BUT YOUR NEXT PANEL WILL
ACTUALLY HAVE SOMEONE WHO CAN
EXPLAIN THAT.

WHAT I'LL SAY IN GENERAL IS THAT
THE LIDAR DATA IS PRESUMABLY FAR
MORE EFFECTIVE THAN GOOGLE
STREET VIEW.

IT GETS DOWN TO THE GRANULAR
LEVEL OF ANYTHING THAT'S OVER
EIGHT FEET RECOGNIZING IT AS A
TREE.

MOVING FORWARD THAT TECHNOLOGY
HAS IMPROVED YET AGAIN, SO
HOPEFULLY FURTHER TREE CANOPIES
WILL EVEN BE MORE ACCURATE.

>> AND IS THAT THE FIRST SORT OF
STUDY THAT WE'VE DONE AS A CITY?

>> IT'S NOT THE FIRST CANOPY
STUDY, BUT IT'S THE FIRST
RELIABLE -- WE FEEL THAT IT'S
THE FIRST RELIABLE DATA SET THAT
WE HAVE.

SO IT'S THE FIRST OPPORTUNITY
THAT WE'VE HAD TO REALLY
BENCHMARK OUR CURRENT STATE OF
THE CANOPY.

NOW KEEP IN MIND, AGAIN, IT'S
CRUNCHING NUMBERS THAT WERE
COLLECTED IN A DATA SET THAT WAS
COLLECTED IN 2014.

I DON'T KNOW IF THERE'S ANYTHING
YOU WANT TO ADD TO THAT.

>> THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT HAS
DONE THESE CANOPY STUDIES FOR
MANY MAJOR CITIES IN THE U.S.,
AND I THINK THEY WILL BE A GREAT
PARTNER FOR US TO CONTINUE TO
WORK WITH OVER TIME.

WHETHER THE NUMBER IS 27, 29,
25, OF COURSE IT MATTERS.

BUT I THINK WHAT MATTERS MORE IS
UNDERSTANDING THE TREND.

SO WHETHER WE'RE STARTING AT
THAT NUMBER OR SOMETHING ELSE,
IF WE CAN KEEP LOOKING AT THAT
OVER TIME AND GET A SENSE OF
WHERE WE'RE BEING SUCCESSFUL AND
WHERE THEY'RE STRUGGLING THAT
WILL CHART OUR PATH FORWARD.

WHETHER IT'S A TREEPEDIA NUMBER,
SO I THINK WE CAN RELY ON
WORKING WITH UVM, HOPEFULLY
EVERY FIVE YEARS --

>> IS THAT THE PLAN?
THAT WAS MY NEXT QUESTION, SO DO
IT EVERY FIVE YEARS?
>> THAT'S WHAT THEY RECOMMEND,
AND THAT'S WHAT WE'D LIKE TO DO.
>> SO WILL WE BE CONDUCTING ONE
NEXT YEAR THEN?
>> SO WE WON'T BE CONDUCTING ONE
NEXT YEAR BUT HOPEFULLY IN THE
FOLLOWING FISCAL BUDGET.
THE IDEA WOULD BE SO THAT THE
DATA SET IS NO OLDER THAN FIVE
YEARS.
WE'D BE LOOKING IN THE FY'20
BUDGET.
>> BALL PARK WHAT DOES IT COST?
>> IT'S WELL OVER \$100,000.
THE MOST EXPENSIVE AS PART OF IT
IS REALLY THE ACTUAL FLYOVER AND
THE TECHNOLOGY THAT'S USED.
>> MM-HMM.
AND OKAY, SO THAT'S -- SO I
THINK THAT'S HELPFUL TO SORT OF
UNDERSTAND WHERE WE ARE.
I THINK 27% SEEMS TO BE SHORT OF
MORE AVERAGE. PçD
AND I KNOW WE ALL ARE COMMITTED
TO THAT, TO GETTING THAT UP TO
35%. Ñi
GREG YOU WEREN'T HERE WHEN WE
HAD OUR BUDGET HEARING WITH
COMMISSIONER COOK.
I WANT TO SINGLE OUT YOU AND
YOUR TEAM PARTICULARLY FOR A
FANTASTIC JOB PARTICULARLY WHEN
WE HAD THREE OR FOUR
NOR'EASTERS, KEEPING
PASSABLE.
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW MANY
TREES WE LOST BECAUSE OF THE
CLIMATE CHANGE CREATED IN
EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS IN
FEBRUARY AND MARCH?
>> I COULD DEFINITELY GET YOU
THOSE NUMBERS.
>> IS IT THE MOST IN YOUR
EXPERIENCE?
THE MOST IN SORT OF ONE SEASON
IN YOUR TIME WORKING FOR THE
CITY?
>> YEAH, A FEW YEARS BACK WE HAD
ALL THOSE MICROBURSTS,
HURRICANE, SUPERSTORM SANDY.
>> YEAH.

>> THAT WAS PRETTY BAD, TOO.
>> OKAY.
AND SO SPECIFICALLY -- LET'S
TALK A LITTLE BIT ABOUT, THERE'S
A MEDIA ARTICLE NOT TOO LONG AGO
PROXSLY A WEEK OR LAST SUNDAY I
BELIEVE IT WAS, THAT TALKED
ABOUT SINCE 2007, AND SORT OF
THE PLAN TO PLANT 100,000 TREES,
THAT JUST UNDER 10,000 HAVE BEEN
PLANTED, AND JUST CLOSER TO
6,000 HAVE BEEN REMOVED.
SO IT'S BEEN ABOUT A 4,000
PERCENT.
AGAIN, MUCH OF THIS PREDATES
THESE ROLES.
SO THIS ISN'T ABOUT BLAMING.
THIS IS ABOUT FIGURING OUT WHAT
HAPPENED AND HOW TO AVOID THEŃi
MISTAKES OF THE PAST.
IS IT THAT TREES WERE PLANTED
WILLY-NILLY?
IS IT GAS LEAKS THAT HAVE CAUSED
IT?
YOU KNOW, GAS LEAKS HAVE AFFECT
ON HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF THE
TREES.
WHAT ARE SOME OF THE REASONS WHY
WE HAVEN'T HAD MORE SUCCESS?
>> I'D BE HAPPY TO TALK IN
GENERAL.
ONE OF THE ITEMS THAT THE
ARTICLE HIGHLIGHTED IS THAT'S
THE ACTUAL NUMBER OF STREET
TREES PLANTED.
>> OKAY.
>> AND SO, SOME OF THE
OPPORTUNITIES FOR PLANTING, AND
IN FACT SOME OF THE REALLY
OPPORTUNITIES FOR RADICAL
CHANGE, ARE IN ŃrLARGE-SCALE
DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS OR
LARGE-SCALE ROADWAY PROJECTS.
SO THAT WOULDN'T BE CAPTURED IN
OUR STREET TREE NUMBERS.
AND WE WOULD BENEFIT AS A CITY
DEVELOPING A SYSTEM ALONG WITH
OUR COLLEAGUES IN THE
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT, PUBLIC
WORKS DEPARTMENT, TRANSPORTATION
DEPARTMENT, WHEN WE GO INTO
THESE PROJECTS, WE TRY TO
PRIORITIZE TREE PROTECTION, AND
CERTAINLY LIZA AND CAREY MARSH

DO IN THEIR COMMENTS ON
LARGE-SCALE PROJECTS.
BUT WE SHOULD ALSO TRACK THE
SUCCESS OF NEW TREE PLANTINGS AS
PART OF THOSE PROJECTS, AND MAKE
SURE THAT WE'RE ROLLING THOSE UP
IN THE OVERALL NUMBERS.
WE DO WANT TO STRESS THAT, AND
THIS IS NOT A KNOCK ON ANY
PREVIOUS GOALS, THAT I DO THINK
THAT THE FOCUS SHOULD SHIFT FROM
TOTAL NUMBER OF TREES PLANTED TO
THAT TREE CANOPY NUMBER.
THE TREE CANOPY NUMBER ACTUALLY
TROYS MORE PLANNING
OPPORTUNITIES TO MAKE SURE THAT
WE'RE ADDRESSING SOME OF THE
STORMWATER MANAGEMENT, SOME OF
THE HEAT ISLAND EFFECTS, THE
BENEFITS THAT WE'RE TRYING TO
GET FROM THOSE TREES, I THINK
IT'S EASIER TO PLAN WHEN WE LOOK
AT CANOPY COVERAGE IN A CERTAIN
NEIGHBORHOOD ON A CERTAIN STREET
AND CERTAINLY FROM THE CITY AS A
WHOLE.
SO THERE'S OPPORTUNITIES.
BUT AS FAR AS SOME OF THE
REASONS WHY WE CAN'T PLANT IN
THE RIGHT OF WAY.
SO THAT'S SPECIFICALLY WHAT THE
ARTICLE IS REFERENCING.
IT'S ALL OF THOSE THINGS.
IT'S FINDING AVAILABLE PLANTING
LOCATIONS.
IT'S DEVELOPMENT IN THE CITY OF
BOSTON, AND WHETHER OR NOT
THERE'S NEW CURBSIDES.
IT'S PRIORITIZING ACCESSIBILITY
ON SIDEWALKS.
AND IT'S, YOU KNOW, GAS LEAKS
AND OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL
CONCERNS, AND THEN IN ADDITION
TO THAT, I WOULD ALSO SAY THAT
THE NUMBER ONE SUSPECT IN
MORTALITY IS OFTEN THE
CARBON-BASED LIFE FORM HUMANS.
RIGHT?
YOU KNOW, WHETHER IT'S A MOVING
VAN, OR SOME OTHER INCIDENT, WE
OFTEN CONTRIBUTE TO THE
MORTALITY RATE OF STREET TREES.
SO MAX WOULD CORRECT ME IF I'M
WRONG BUT I THINK OUR CURRENT

MORTALITY RATE IS NEAR 20%.
>> THAT'S FOR TREES PLANTED,
YEAH, WE AVERAGE ABOUT 15% OF
THE TREES THAT WE PLANT DIE
WITHIN THE FIRST YEAR.
>> SO, AGAIN, THAT'S WHY --
IS THAT HIGH?
IS THAT LOW?
>> IT'S HIGH FOR THE AVERAGE FOR
THE COUNTRY, YES.
>> AND WE'RE BETWEEN A 15% TO
20% AVERAGE FOR TREE FAILURE FOR
NEW TREES PLANTED
>> AND WHAT'S THE NUMBER ONE
CAUSE?
>> MAINTENANCE, MONEY TO AFFORD
TO BE ABLE TO MAINTAIN THE TREES
IN THE WAY IN WHICH THEY NEED TO
BE.
>> OKAY.
>> YOU KNOW, IT'S LIKE TAKING
CARE OF A CHILD, RIGHT?
YOU NEED TO SPEND MONEY TO TAKE
CARE OF THAT CHILD.
AND OUR FUNDING SOURCES HAVE NOT
GIVEN US THE ABILITY TO UNTIL
THIS YEAR TO PROPERLY MAINTAIN
THOSE YOUNG TREES.
SO, THEY, IN TURN, HAVE DIED.
AND WE -- OUR CONTRACTORS
REPLACE THEM FOR FREE UNDER
WARRANTY FOR TWO YEARS.
BUT, WE HAVE NO DATA AFTER THAT
TWO YEARS SET OF WHAT THE
FAILURE LOOKS LIKE AFTER THAT.
>> AND WHEN DO MOST OF THE TREES
SORT OF DIE IN THAT AREA?
IS IT WITHIN THE FIRST -- IS IT
AFTER THE FIRST WINTER?
OR THE FIRST SORT OF --
>> SO WE DO AN INSPECTION RIGHT
AFTER THEY'RE PLANTED.
AND THAT'S USUALLY LIKE A 7%
FAILURE RIGHT WITHIN THREE
MONTHS.
AND THEN A YEAR LATER WE DO
ANOTHER INSPECTION, AND THAT'S
WHERE IT RANGES BETWEEN 15% AND
20%.
AND THEN WE DO ONE FINAL
INSPECTION AFTER THAT.
SAME THING, 15% TO 20% FAILURE.
>> AND COUNCILOR, IF IT'S
HELPFUL, SORRY, CARL, MAX, WOULD

YOU PLEASE DESCRIBE THE CURRENT
NEW CONTRACT SPECIFICATIONS THAT
HOPEFULLY WILL HELP WITH THE
MORTALITY RATE?

>> SO FOR FY'18, I WROTE A NEW
PLANTING CONTRACT THAT PUT MORE
MONEY INTO WATERING AND
MAINTENANCE OF THE TREES THAT
ARE PLANTED.

I ALSO WITH THE GIS DEPARTMENT
CAME UP WITH A TRACKING
APPLICATION THAT IS IN EACH OF
THE WATERING TRUCKS SO I CAN SEE
THEM LIVE EVERY DAY, WHERE THEY
GO, I CAN SEE HOW MANY -- FOR
HOW LONG THEY ARE AT EACH TREE
THAT THEY PLANTED IN THEIR
CONTRACT.

SO THAT TOOK UP AN EXTRA
\$150,000 OF OUR PLANTING BUDGET
WAS JUST TO MAKE SURE THE TREES
GET WATERED AND MAINTAINED
BETTER.

WE ALSO ADDED A SUPPLEMENTAL
FERTILIZER PRE-DRENCH FOR THE
TREES, SO WHEN WE PLANT THE
TREES WE DRENCH IT WITH A
FERTILIZER, WATER RETENTION,
FUNGICIDE TO HELP THE TREE
RETAIN WATER BETTER.

TO GIVE THE TREE A BETTER CHANCE
WE'VE ADDED THAT NUTRIENT ASPECT
TO IT.

WE'VE ALSO STARTED STAKING AND
GUYING THE TREES AGAIN AS WELL
AS ADDING A GATOR BAG, WATERING
BAG ONTO THE STAKE OF THE TREE
TO HELP, YOU KNOW, GET THE ROOTS
OF THE TREE TO SPREAD OUT
FARTHER INSTEAD OF STAYING IN
THAT CONFINED SPACE.

SO OVERALL, WATER, NUTRIENTS,
AND THE NEW PLANTING SPECS HAVE
COST US PROBABLY AN EXTRA
\$210,000, \$220,000 IN THE
PLANTING CONTRACT.

BUT IT HOPES IT WILL DECREASE
OUR FAILURE RIGHT.

>> NO QUESTION.

SEEMS TO ME IT'S ONE OF THE BEST
INVESTMENTS WE CAN MAKE.

IT MAY SOUND LIKE A LARGE SUM OF
MONEY, BUT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT
ALL THE BENEFITS THAT COME FROM

TREES TO MAKE SURE THAT THEY CAN GROW, THAT'S WORTH IT.

I WILL SAY THIS BODY WILL BE VOTING ON THE MAYOR'S BUDGET IN A COUPLE WEEKS.

AGAIN, WE REJECTED, WHICH WAS A FORMALITY LAST WEEK, AND THEN IT'S RESUBMITTED FOR THOSE WATCHING AT HOME.

I WOULD URGE THAT WE MAKE SURE THAT YOUR DEPARTMENT HAS AS MUCH MONEY AS YOU GUYS NEED TO MAKE --

>> I'D LIKE TO SAY THAT OUR PLANTING BUDGET HAS STAYED THE SAME.

THE NUMBER OF TREES THAT WE PLANT PENDING DEPENDS ON THE COST. WHEN YOU TAKE \$225,000 OUT OF THAT \$700,000 BUDGET YOU'RE PLANTING LESS TREES EVERY YEAR.

>> BUT THEY'RE GOING TO STAY AROUND.

FIVE YEARS FROM NOW WE'LL HAVE MORE TREES THAN -- WE SHOULDN'T BE DOING IT WITHOUT STRATEGIC --

>> THOSE NEW TREE SPECIFICATIONS WE'RE VERY HOPEFUL WILL REDUCE THE MORTALITY RATE.

>> COUNCILOR, IF I MAY, I'D LIKE TO EMPHASIZE A COUPLE OF THINGS THAT CHRIS MENTIONED.

YOU KNOW, THAT AS LONG AS WE'RE TALKING ABOUT THE -- FIRST OF ALL, I AGREE WITH HIM THAT WE NEED TO FOCUS ON THE OVERALL TREE CANOPY AS A BETTER MEASURE THAN JUST THE INDIVIDUAL NUMBER OF TREES.

OBVIOUSLY THAT'S IMPORTANT. AND AS WE THINK ABOUT THE TREE CANOPY FOR THE WHOLE CITY, THE -- THE NUMBER OF -- THE STREET TREES THAT WE HAVE, MY COLLEAGUES WILL CORRECT ME IF I'M WRONG, I THINK THERE ARE ON THE ORDER OF 40,000 STREET TREES IN THE CITY OF BOSTON.

BUT IN BOSTON OVERALL, THERE ARE WILL 400,000 TREES.

YOU KNOW, ON PRIVATE AND PUBLIC -- PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PROPERTY.

SO THAT WITH STREET TREES, FOR WHICH WE HAVE THE MOST DATA, AND

MY COLLEAGUES AT THE PARKS DEPARTMENT DO A MARVELOUS JOB MONITORING THAT AND WORKING ON THAT, BUT, THE POPULATION FOR WHICH WE HAVE THE MOST DATA REPRESENTS ONLY 10% OF OUR OVERALL EARLY FOREST.

SO OBVIOUSLY WE WANT TO MAKE SURE WE'RE GIVING PROPER ATTENTION TO STREET TREES BUT THAT'S ONLY A SMALL PART OF ADDRESSING OUR OVERALL GOALS FOR INCREASING THE TREE CANOPY.

>> THAT'S A FAIR POINT.

AND THE 27% TREE CANOPY COVERAGE INCLUDES BOTH THE STREET TREES, PUBLIC, PRIVATE --

>> CORRECT.

>> GREAT.

I WANT TO BE RESPECTFUL OF MY COLLEAGUES.

I HAVE MORE QUESTIONS.

I'LL WAIT UNTIL THE NEXT ROUND.

WE'VE BEEN JOINED BY COUNCILOR JANEY.

WELCOME COUNCILOR JANEY.

COUNCILOR PRESSLEY?

>> THANK YOU, COUNCILOR O'MALLEY.

EXCUSE ME, I HAVE ASTHMA, WHICH IS WHY WE NEED MORE TREES SO BEAR WITH ME HERE.

BUT COMMISSIONER I JUST WANTED TO PICK UP ON JUST REVISIT DEVELOPMENT, AND ZONING IN PARTICULAR.

AS I'M THINKING ABOUT ALL THE DEVELOPMENT HAPPENING IN THE CITY, AND THE COMMUNITY BENEFITS AGREEMENT THAT WE ARE -- AS COUNCIL IS OFTEN AT THE TABLE TO PLAY A ROLE IN NEGOTIATING, I JUST WONDER FROM A DEVELOPMENT AND ZONING STANDPOINT FROM A CDA STANDPOINT, HAVE TREES EVER BEEN FACTORED INTO THIS?

I SHARED THE NUMBER NATIONALLY THAT WE HAD LOST 30% OF MATURED TREES BECAUSE OF DEVELOPMENT, AND I KNOW THERE WAS SOME NUMBERS BANDIED AROUND HERE BASED ON MORTALITY, HUMAN ERROR AND THINGS LIKE THAT.

CAN YOU GUESSTIMATE, AND ALSO

ABOUT EXTREME WEATHER.
BUT DO WE KNOW HOW MANY TREES IN
THE CITY OF BOSTON WE'VE LOST
BECAUSE OF DEVELOPMENT?
AND THEN HOW ARE WE MITIGATING
THAT?

>> SURE.

>> AND I DO WANT TO GIVE A
SHOUT-OUT TO MELINDA VEGA AND
OTHER NEIGHBORHOOD EFFORTS.
BUT I'D LIKE TO SEE THOS
DEVELOPMENT, OR PERHAPS COLLEGES
AND UNIVERSITIES PLAYING MORE OF
A ROLE INTENTIONALLY TO
SUPPLEMENT THIS.

>> IT'S AN EXCELLENT QUESTIONS,
AND IN A LOT OF WAYS IT'S THE
QUESTION ABOUT TREE CANOPY.
WHEN YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT LAND
USE, YOU KNOW, WHAT IS AN
APPROPRIATE LAND USE TO BOTH
PRIORITIZE, EXPANSION, AND
CERTAINLY PROTECTION OF TREE
CANOPY.

VERSUS THE OTHER USES THAT THE
COMMUNITY DESIRES.

SO THE ANSWER IS NO, WE DON'T
KNOW HOW MANY TREES THAT WE'VE
LOST TO DEVELOPMENT.

WHAT WE ARE HOPEFUL, THOUGH, IS
NOW THAT WE HAVE A BENCHMARK OF
THIS TREE CANOPY STUDY, WHEN WE
ANALYZE IT FURTHER AGAIN WE'LL
SEE EITHER A DECREASE OR AN
INCREASE.

I CAN TALK A LITTLE BIT ABOUT
SOME OF THE PROTECTIONS THAT WE
PUT AROUND TREES THROUGH THE
DEVELOPMENT PROCESS.

SO FIRST OFF JUST FOR STREET
TREES, AND AGAIN AS CARL POINTS
OUT THIS IS A VERY SMALL SLIVER
OF THE TREE CANOPY BUT IN THE
RIGHT OF WAY, PUBLIC TREES
THEY'RE PROTECTED BY CHAPTER 87
OF MASS GENERAL LAWS AND GREG IS
THE TREE WARDEN.

MAKES RECOMMENDATIONS TO ME
ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT A TREE CAN
BE REMOVED FOR A VARIETY OF
REASONS IN THE RIGHT OF WAY.
THAT HAS A FORMAL PROCESS.

WE HAVE A TREE HEARING PROCESS
THAT WE FOLLOW.

AS FAR AS DEVELOPMENT, THERE'S TWO MAIN REVIEWS THAT HAPPEN WHERE THE PARKS DEPARTMENT SPECIFICALLY HAS THE OPPORTUNITY TO INFLUENCE THE NUMBER OF TREES, THERE'S A PLANTING PLAN. ONE IS PARKS COMMISSION AND THAT'S THE 100 FOOT RULE.

SO IF YOU'RE WITHIN 100 FEET OF A ARTICLE 97 PROTECTED OPEN SPACE, THE PARKS DEPARTMENT, YOU NEED APPROVAL FROM THEñi PARKS DEPARTMENT ON YOUR PROJECT, AND DURING THAT PROCESS, IT IS VERY, VERY COMMON SPECIFICALLY FOR OUR CHIEF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT TO WRITE COMMENT LETTERS ABOUT THE VEGETATION ON SITE.

THE OTHER REVIEW IS THROUGH ARTICLE 80.

THIS IS SOMETHING THAT'S BEEN FAIRLY NEW FOR THE BOSTON PARKS DEPARTMENT TO PARTICIPATE FULLY IN.

BUT, IN ARTICLE 80 LARGE PROJECT REVIEW, IN SOME CASES SMALL PROJECT REVIEWS, THERE'S AN OPPORTUNITY FOR DIFFERENT CITY AGENCIES TO COMMENT ON PROJECTS. BECAUSE WE VIEW TREE CANOPY AS SO IMPORTANT, BECAUSE WE REVIEW THE POTENTIAL EFFECTS OF STORMWATER MANAGEMENT OR HEAT ISLAND EFFECT, A PROJECT SO IMPORTANT AS TO THE WORK THAT WE DO, AS FAR AS OUR INVESTMENT IN TREES, WE OFTEN COMMENT ON MOST LARGE PROJECTS IN THE CITY OF BOSTON, AND AGAIN, THAT WOULD BE FOLKS THAT WOULD INCLUDE FOCUSES ON NOT ONLY THE RELATION TO OTHER OPEN SPACE, BUT ALSO WHAT THEY'RE DOING TO EITHER EXPAND OR PROTECT TREE CANOPY ON SITE. LET ME CHIEF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT ILLUMINATE FURTHER.

>> I WOULD JUST PICK UP ON YOUR EARLIER COMMENT, COUNCILOR PRESSLEY, ABOUT COMMUNITY BENEFITS AND TREES.

A LOT OF THESE PROJECTS, DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS THAT COME IN, THE COMMUNITY IS DEEPLY FOCUSED ON PARKING NEEDS,

OFFSTREET PARKING NEEDS IN PARTICULAR, BECAUSE THERE'S SO MANY DEMANDS ON PARKING IN NEIGHBORHOODS THAT THAT REALLY, YOU KNOW, ANIMATES THE DISCUSSION AROUND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.

SO WHAT WE SEE A LOT OF TIMES ARE PROJECTS THAT ARE COMING IN WITH PARKING LOTS THAT HAVE VERY FEW TREES IN THEM, BECAUSE THEY'RE TRYING TO MAX OUT THE NUMBER OF PARKING SPACES IN THERE IN ORDER TO ACCOMMODATE COMMUNITY REQUESTS.

WHICH MAKES SENSE.

EVERY PROJECT HAS, YOU KNOW, COMPETING INTERESTS.

BUT WE'VE BEEN WORKING WITH THE BPDA TO ADVOCATE FOR MORE TREES TO BE INTEGRATED INTO PARKING LOTS.

BUT IT COMES AT A COST FOR THE NUMBER OF CARS THAT PEOPLE CAN HAVE OFFSTREET, WHICH PEOPLE NEED TO BECOME MORE COMFORTABLE WITH.

SO AS A DIALOGUE IN THE CITY, THAT'S SOMETHING THAT WE NEED TO CONTINUE TO PRESS ON, TO HELP PEOPLE THAT THERE'S GIVE AND TAKE WITH EACH OF THESE DECISIONS.

AND THEN IF WE WANT TO ADD TREES IT'S GOING TO TAKE THE PLACE OF SOMETHING ELSE, THAT THERE ARE BENEFITS THAT WE ALL GAIN FROM.

>> AND HOW DO YOU WORK IN CONCERT WITH THE COMMUNITY PRESERVATION, THE CPA, IN THAT MONEY ALLOCATED TOWARDS OPEN SPACE?

DOES THAT IN ANY WAY PLAY A ROLE IN MAKING SURE THAT WE'RE KEEPING PACE OR BEING MORE AGGRESSIVE IN REACHING OUR TREE CANOPY GOALS?

>> SO IT'S A REALLY GOOD POINT, COUNCILOR, AND IT IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE CITY.

I DID -- I WAS REMISS TO NOT MENTION THE LEADERSHIP OF THE ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT DURING THOSE REVIEWS, THEY ALSO PROVIDE

REVIEWS DURING ARTICLE 80 THAT IS VERY USEFUL AND OFTEN VERY USEFUL FOR TREE PROTECTION AND ALSO PLANTING.

BUT AS FAR AS COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT, THE CITY ACTUALLY VIEWS INVESTMENT OF TREES AS A CAPITAL EXPENSE, AS OPPOSED TO AN OPERATING EXPENSE. SO PRUNING OF TREES IS OPERATING.

BUT WHEN WE ACTUALLY PURCHASE TREES TO PUT THEM INTO THE GROUND, ESPECIALLY IN THE RIGHT OF WAY STREET TREES THAT'S A CAPITAL EXPENSE.

IN ADDITION, PARKS INCLUDES TREES IN ITS PARK PROJECTS, AS PARK CAPITAL PROJECTS. AS A CAPITAL EXPENSE, AS WELL. SO, THROUGH THAT LENS, YOU COULD LOOK AT COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT AS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR PLANTING.

BUT IT'S VERY -- IT'S VERY -- IT'S RESTRICTED TO CAPITAL, NOT MAINTENANCE USES.

WHAT WOULD BE VERY IMPORTANT, THOUGH, IS THAT IT CAN'T TAKE THE PLACE OF EXISTING CAPITAL FUNDS, SO TO PUT IT ANOTHER WAY, THE CITY CAN'T GET OFF THE HOOK BY ACCESSING CPA FUNDS FOR SOMETHING THE CITY WAS ALREADY OBLIGATED TO DO.

SO WE WOULD HAVE TO MAKE SURE TO TREAT THOSE PLANTINGS AS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR NEW FUNDING, NOT AS A --

>> OKAY, GOT IT.

MY LAST QUESTION, FOR THIS ROUND, I THINK, WHAT IS THE CRITERIA -- SO YOU KNOW, WE HAVE 311, PEOPLE WANT A BIKE RACK SOME PLACE OR WANT SOMETHING REPAIRED, I KNOW PEOPLE USE THAT WHEN THERE IS AN ACCESSIBILITY ISSUE, AND A PROBLEM WITH A MATURE TREE, AGAIN, UPENDED A SIDEWALK OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT. BUT, HOW CAN THE VARIOUS NEIGHBORHOODS BE HEARD IN TERMS OF WHERE THEY WOULD LIKE TO SEE TREES?

HOW DO THEY -- HOW DO WE HAVE
THAT TWO-WAY CONVERSATION?
AND THEN SECONDLY, HOW DO YOU
PRIORITIZE THAT?

SO HOW DO YOU DETERMINE WHAT
NEIGHBORHOODS YOU'RE GOING TO
PUT ONLINE RELATIVE TO TREE
CANOPY?

BECAUSE, I DO SEE TREES, SINCEÇÓ
THEY DO HAVE THIS INTEGRATED
BENEFIT FOR THOSE NEIGHBORHOODS
THAT NEED AN ENHANCEMENT IN
THEIR PROPERTY VALUE, FOR THOSE
NEIGHBORHOODS THAT HAVE A HIGHER
DENSITY OF ASTHMA RATES, FOR
THOSE NEIGHBORHOODS THAT ARE
MORE VULNERABLE TO CLIMATE AND
TO SEA LEVEL RISE, YOU KNOW, IT
SEEMS LIKE THOSE SHOULD BE FAST
TRACKED.

SO WE HAVE A RATIONALE THAT
WE'RE BETTER UNDERSTANDING
AROUND FLOW STREETS SO NOW I
WANT TO UNDERSTAND WHAT IS THE
RATIONALE AND HOW DO WE ONBOARD
AND FAST TRACK THE NEIGHBORHOODS
IN THE GREATEST NEED.

>> ALL RIGHT.

SO THERE'S TWO TRACKS TO THE
QUESTION THERE.

AND I'LL LET GREG SPEAK TO SOME
OF THE CHALLENGES THAT WE FIND
FINDING PLANTING LOCATIONS.

BUT IN GENERAL, WE DO RELY ON
311.

WE RELY ON THE COMMUNITY TO GIVE
US PLANTING LOCATIONS FOR
DESIRED LOCATIONS.

THAT BEING SAID, WE HAVE TO
PRIORITIZE CERTAIN AREAS.

SO WHILE WE RELY ON THE PUBLIC
TO GIVE US 311 REQUESTS FOR NEW
TREES AND WE DO HAVE ON OUR

WEBSITE ALL THE DIFFERENT
CONCERNS THAT SOMEBODY SHOULD
TAKE INTO ACCOUNT BEFORE THEY
GIVE US A PLANTING LOCATION, WE
DON'T NECESSARILY EXPECT THE
PUBLIC TO GO THROUGH THAT LONG
LIST, AND OFTEN THE PUBLIC JUST
SEES A SPOT WHERE THEY THINK IT
WOULD BE NICE FOR A TREE.

WE WILL THEN GO AND INSPECT IT.
ONE OF THE THINGS THAT WE DID IS

WE TRIED TO ADJUST OUR SLAs,
BECAUSE THE COMMUNITY COULD GET
VERY FRUSTRATED THAT IT MIGHT
TAKE 18 MONTHS FOR EITHER A TREE
TO GET INSPECTED SO WE'VE GOT
SOME OF THOSE INSPECTIONS DOWN
TO A YEAR.

AND AGAIN, GREG WILL TALK ABOUT
SOME OF THE COMPLICATIONS THAT
WE HAVE WITH FINDING A PLANTABLE
LOCATION.

THE IDEA OF PRIORITIZING
NEIGHBORHOODS IS SOMETHING THAT
STRATEGICALLY WE JUST HAVE TO
ADDRESS AS PART OF CLIMATE
CHANGE AND AS PART OF EQUITY.
SO SOMETHING THAT YOU AND
COUNCILOR O'MALLEY HAVE
MENTIONED IN YOUR REMARKS, THE
IDEA THAT EAST BOSTON SUFFERS
FROM LOW CANOPY COMPARED TO THE
REST OF THE CITY, YOU KNOW, A
LOT OF THAT HAS TO DO, FRANKLY,
WITH THE LARGE INDUSTRIAL USE,
WHETHER IT'S THE AIRPORT, OR
OTHER SURFACE AREAS THAT ARE
OVER IN EAST BOSTON.

BUT IT DOES MEAN THAT WE HAVE TO
PRIORITIZE PLANTING OVER THERE.
SO WHEN WE LOOK AT OPPORTUNITIES
OF, IF THERE WAS EVER A
POTENTIAL REDESIGN OF BENNINGTON
STREET, IS THERE A WAY THAT THE
PARKS DEPARTMENT COULD
PARTICIPATE FULLY IN PLANTING
THAT ENTIRE CORRIDOR?

WHERE CURRENTLY WE NOW HAVE
PLANTS THAT ARE IN PLANTERS THAT
ARE NOT PROVIDING ANYWHERE NEAR
THE SAME ECOLOGICAL BENEFIT THAT
STREET TREES WOULD ON THAT
STREET.

BUT ALSO WE'D BE REMISS IF WE
DIDN'T PARTNER WITH GROUPS LIKE
NOAA.

SO THIS PAST YEAR, OUR TREE
WARDEN GREG MOSSMAN, IN
PARTNERSHIP WITH NOAA, ACTUALLY
PURCHASED TWO BICYCLES THAT HAVE
A WATERING TANK ON THE BACK OF
THE BICYCLE, SO THAT THE KIDS
FROM NOAA CAN PROVIDE ADDITIONAL
WATER TO DIFFERENT STREET TREES
IN EAST BOSTON.

THAT'S TO CARE FOR WHAT WE HAVE.
BUT WE ALSO DO TRY TO, WHEN WE
GO INTO A NEIGHBORHOOD, WE TRY
TO GET A CRITICAL MAP OF
PLANTINGS AVAILABLE, AND
FRANKLY, THAT'S JUST TO SAVE
MONEY ON THE PLANTING CONTRACT.
YOU KNOW, IF YOU'RE PLANTING ONE
TREE, 13 MILES AWAY FROM ANOTHER
TREE, THERE'S NO EFFICIENCY TO
THAT.

SO WE GO INTO NEIGHBORHOODS, WE
TRY TO TAKE CARE OF ALL THE
PLANTING LOCATIONS.

GREG, I DON'T KNOW IF YOU WANT
TO TALK ABOUT SOME OF THE
CHALLENGES OF FINDING PLANTING
LOCATION.

>> SURE.

SO THERE'S TWO WAYS TREES GET
PLANTED.

ONE A 311 REQUEST OR WHEN WE CUT
DOWN A DEAD TREE IT

AUTOMATICALLY GOES BACK IN.

NOT ALL OF THOSE LOCATIONS ARE
REPLANTABLE.

MOSTLY BECAUSE OF ADA STANDARDS
THAT HAVE THE CHANGED SINCE THE
TREE WENT IN 50-WHENEVER YEARS
AGO.

WE ALSO LOOK FOR CONFLICTS WITH
WATER LINES, GAS LINES,
UNDERGROUND UTILITIES.

A LOT OF TELECOMMUNICATION STUFF
IS UNDERGROUND.

A LOT OF THESE NEIGHBORHOODS
NOW.

SO, WE OBVIOUSLY DON'T WANT TO
INTERFERE WITH THE UTILITIES
WHEN WE PUT THESE TREES IN.
AND THEN THE OTHER THINGS WOULD
BE LIKE TOO CLOSE TO A LIGHT
POLE.

OR WE WOULDN'T WANT TO PUT A
TREE RIGHT BY YOUR FRONT
ENTRANCE TO YOUR DOOR TO YOUR
HOUSE OR YOUR APARTMENT.

SO, THERE'S QUITE A FEW THINGS
THAT WE LOOK AT WHEN WE GO OUT
BEFORE WE APPROVE A TREE TO BE
PLANTED AT THAT SPOT.

>> OKAY.

SO WHAT WOULD BE THE SUMMARY
STATEMENT OF HOW WE PRIORITIZE?

FROM AN EQUITY STANDPOINT?
>> IT'S VERY IMPORTANT TO
PRIORITIZE FROM AN EQUITY
STANDPOINT.
BUT IT'S INTERESTING THAT EQUITY
COULD BE LOOKED AT THROUGH
SEVERAL DIFFERENT LENSES.
RIGHT?
THERE'S THE EQUITY OF WHAT
NEIGHBORHOODS DON'T HAVE ENOUGH
CONPY.
AND THERE'S ALSO THE EQUITY OF
NEIGHBORHOODS THAT WOULD BENEFIT
FROM FURTHER EXPANSION OF THEIR
CANOPY.
SO IT'S INTERESTING WHEN YOU
TALK ABOUT SLOW STREETS THE
STUDIES THAT FULLY TREED STREETS
PEOPLE ACTUALLY DO DRIVE SLOWER
ON THOSE.
SO IF YOU HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO
HAVE AN INTERVENTION OF A LOT OF
STREET TREES YOU CAN ACTUALLY
HELP WITH PEDESTRIAN-CAR
FATALITIES.
SO I THINK WE'RE GOING TO HAVE
TO LOOK AT THROUGH EQUITY,
THROUGH MULTIPLE LENSES.
>> LENSES.
ALL RIGHT.
THANK YOU.
THANK YOU MR. CHAIR.
>> THANK YOU COUNCILOR PRESSLEY.
COUNCILOR JANEY?
>> THANK YOU, MR. CHAIR.
THANK YOU ALL FOR BEING HERE.
CERTAINLY WANT TO THANK EVERYONE
IN ATTENDANCE FOR BEING HERE AT
THIS HEARING.
JUST WANTED TO KIND OF FOLLOW UP
ON THE PROCESS, AND I'M GLAD
THAT YOU MENTIONED COMMISSIONER
EQUITY.
I'M WONDERING, AS WE LOOK AT,
LET'S SAY A 311 REQUEST.
>> SURE.
>> AND CLEARLY NOT EVERYONE IN
OUR CITY UTILIZES 311.
SO I THINK ALSO MAKING SURE THAT
WE'RE LOOKING AT, YOU KNOW, THE
GREATEST NEED, AND WHO COULD
BENEFIT, AS YOU ALREADY
MENTIONED.
BUT LET'S SAY SOMEONE DID USE

311.

WHAT IS THE ACTUAL PROCESS FROM BEGINNING TO END?

SO A RESIDENT HAS REQUESTED A TREE.

YOU COME OUT, YOU LOOK, YOU SEE IF IT'S UTILITY LINES, GAS LINES, ET CETERA.

WHAT ELSE DO YOU CONSIDER?

AND AT WHAT POINT IS THAT INDIVIDUAL, OR IS THAT RESIDENT THEN KEPT IN THE LOOP ENGAGED THROUGHOUT THIS PROCESS?

>> SURE, SO I'LL LET GREG ANSWER THAT.

>> WE WON'T PLANT A TREE UNLESS THE RESIDENT REQUESTS IT.

SO VERY OFTEN WE TAKE A TREE DOWN, AND THE HOMEOWNER DOES NOT WANT A TREE TO GO BACK.

AND THAT'S SORT OF A POLICY THING THAT WE CAN'T PUT A TREE WHERE THAT SOMEONE'S NOT GOING TO TAKE CARE OF.

BECAUSE WHEN WE DO TRY TO DO THAT, WE'LL BE PICKING IT UP OFF THE SIDEWALK AFTER IT'S BEEN RIPPED OUT OF THE GROUND.

IT'S KIND OF A WASTE OF TIME AND MONEY.

WE ONLY PLANT IF SOMEONE MAKES A REQUEST.

>> ALL RIGHT.

SO I HAVE A CONSTITUENT WHO HAS MADE A REQUEST, AND THEY HAVE NOT HEARD BACK.

SO I'M WONDERING LIKE WHAT IS THE PROCESS?

THEY PUT IN A 311 REQUEST.

THEN WHAT'S THE NEXT STEP?

>> SO THEY SHOULD BE NOTIFIED BACK BY 311 THAT IT'S GOING TO BE ON A QUEUE TO BE INSPECTED TO SEE IF IT'S PLANTABLE.

IF THEY'RE NOT, THAT MEANS THERE'S A PROBLEM, AND IT MEANS THAT YOUR -- I WOULD LOVE TO REACH OUT TO THAT CONSTITUENT TO FIND OUT WHY.

SO THEY WOULD BE NOTIFIED THROUGH THE DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE PROCESS.

>> THEY WOULD BE NOTIFIED?

>> YEAH.

IF IT'S THROUGH 311 AND THE
COULD BE TACT INFORMATION THERE
IS.

>> SO OFTENTIMES YOU GET LIKE A
CASE CLOSED.

YOU DON'T NECESSARILY GET, HERE
ARE THE NEXT STEPS IN THE
PROCESS?

I DON'T KNOW IF THAT WAS THE
CASE WITH THIS SPECIFIC
INCIDENT, BUT THAT'S OFTEN WHAT
HAPPENS.

>> WE WOULD LOVE TO FOLLOW UP ON
THE INDIVIDUAL CONSTITUENT'S
CONCERN.

THEY SHOULD BE RECEIVING
FEEDBACK.

>> AND IF TREES ARE REMOVED,
I'VE HEARD FROM, YOU KNOW, OTHER
CONSTITUENTS ABOUT TREES BEING
REMOVED, JUST KIND OF
UNDERSTANDING, YOU KNOW, WHAT
HAS GONE IN TO THAT DECISION, IS
THERE A PROCESS IN PLACE?

>> SURE.

SO TALK A LITTLE BIT ABOUT THE
TREE HEARING PROCESS.

AGAIN I'LL LET GREG TALK ABOUT
THAT.

>> YES.

SO, REGULAR MAINTENANCE, TREE'S
LOOKED AT BY A CERTIFIED
ARBORIST.

THERE'S THREE OF US.

AND A DETERMINATION IS MADE IN
WHAT YOU'RE DESCRIBING TO REMOVE
THE TREE.

THEY WILL GET AN INSPECTION NOTE
BACK THROUGH 311 THAT THE TREE
IS GOING TO BE REMOVED.

AND THEN THAT COULD TAKE ANOTHER
SIX MONTHS BEFORE THE TREE IS
ACTUALLY GONE.

TREE HEARING PROCESS IS
DIFFERENT.

IF YOU WANT TO PUT A CURB CUT IN
FRONT OF YOUR HOUSE FOR A NEW
DRIVEWAY, AND THERE'S A TREE IN
THE WAY, WE HAVE TO HOLD A
PUBLIC HEARING FOR THAT.
IT HAS TO BE ADVERTISED FOR TWO
WEEKS.

AND, THAT'S THE OPPORTUNITY FOR
NEIGHBORS TO WEIGH IN ON THE

TREE REMOVAL.

>> AND WE ACTUALLY PUT THE --
PARDON ME FOR INTERRUPTING, WE
ACTUALLY PUT THE NOTICE ON THE
TREE ITSELF.

>> YES.

>> IN ADDITION TO NOTIFYING THE
ABUTTERS?

OR JUST ON THE TREE?

>> PUT IT ON THE TREE.

>> ON THE TREE.

>> IT GOES IN THE PAPER.

>> RIGHT.

SO I KNOW WITH OVER AT ROXY
HOMES, CAMDEN STREET, THERE HAVE
BEEN SOME TREES REMOVED.

ONE I THINK WAS BECAUSE OF THE
DEVELOPMENT THAT CAME.

DO NEIGHBORS, OTHER THAN POSTING
ON A TREE, DO NEIGHBORS HAVE THE
OPPORTUNITY TO WEIGH IN AND LET
THEIR THOUGHTS BE KNOWN?

>> THAT HEARING PROCESS IS

PUBLIC.

AND SO, CONSTITUENTS CAN DO TWO
THINGS.

ONE IS THEY CAN SEND US A
LETTER, WHICH IS OFTEN MORE
CONVENIENT FOR THE CONSTITUENT.
AND WE'LL WEIGH THAT INTO THE
DECISION.

OR THEY CAN ACTUALLY SHOW UP AND
TESTIFY IN PERSON.

>> AND THEY'RE NOTIFIED?

I'M TRYING TO UNDERSTAND THE
NOTICING PIECE OF IT.

>> YEAH.

>> BEYOND THE POSTING OF A FLYER
ON THE TREE.

>> SO WE ADVERTISE THE HEARING
PUBLICLY, LIKE WE ADVERTISE MOST
OF OUR COMMISSION HEARINGS.

>> MM-HMM.

>> BUT I THINK THE MOST
EFFECTIVE IS ACTUALLY POSTING
THE ACTUAL TREE SO THAT PEOPLE
KNOW SPECIFICALLY WHAT WE'RE
TALKING ABOUT.

>> AND IF A TREE IS DYING OR
DEAD, DOES THAT REQUIRE
NEIGHBORS TO THEN MAKE THE 311
REQUEST?

>> THE 311 IS MOST USEFUL WHEN
THE COMMUNITY IS USING IT

ACTIVELY.

HOWEVER, IF MIBS OF THE BOSTON
PARKS DEPARTMENT OR OTHER
AGENCIES ARE DRIVING AROUND THE
TOWN AND THEY SEE SOMETHING THAT
THEY'RE CONCERNED ABOUT WE
ENCOURAGE THEM TO PUT IT INTO
311 AS WELL.

>> I APPRECIATE THAT.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

>> THANK YOU, COUNCILOR JANEY.
SO, A COUPLE THINGS I WANT TO
SORT OF GET INTO.

THE PURPOSE OF MY SORT OF SET OF
QUESTIONS THIS ROUND IS TO
FIGURE OUT HOW WE CAN GET YOU
GUYS MORE MONEY AND MORE
RESOURCES.

BECAUSE I THINK YOU HAVE A GOOD
PLAN.

YOU HAVE A GREAT TEAM.

WE ALL ARE -- THIS IS ONE ISSUE
THAT WE ALL ARE IN COMPLETE
AGREEMENT.

WE WANT MORE TREES.

WE WANT TO GROW THE CANOPY
COVERAGE.

COMMISSIONER -- BOTH
COMMISSIONERS, I THINK YOU'RE
RIGHT, THE ISSUE HERE IS LOOKING
AT THE CANOPY COVERAGE AS
OPPOSED TO INDIVIDUAL TREES.
WHICH SOMETIMES THE TWO CAN BE
CONFLATED.

BUT ONE OF THE THINGS THAT I
THOUGHT WAS UNFAIR IN THE RECENT
MEDIA ARTICLE, WHICH I TOLD THE
REPORTER, HE LISTED THE REMOVAL
OF THE CASEY OVERPASS JAMAICA
PLAIN AS THE WAY MANY TREES
REMOVED YET NEGLECTED TO MENTION
THE FACT THERE WILL BE
SIGNIFICANTLY MORE TREES AND
MATURE TREES AS WELL, SO IN
2019, 2020 WE DO THAT SECOND
AUDIT WE'RE GOING TO SEE BETTER
COVERAGE IN THAT PART OF JAMAICA
PLAIN.

SO, I GUESS MY QUESTION IS THIS,
DO WE HAVE ANY LOOSE POLICY THAT
PERHAPS COULD BE OR OUGHT TO BE
CODIFIED AS AN ORDINANCE IN
TERMS OF IF TREES ARE REMOVED
FOR CONSTRUCTION PROJECT, "X"

NUMBER OF TREES NEED TO BE
PLANTED ON-SITE OR THERE NEEDS
TO BE SOME SORT OF A FUND PAID
INTO SIMILARLY TO THE WAY WE DO
WITH LINKAGE?

>> SO ONLY IN REGARDS TO STREET
TREES WHICH IS NOT WHAT YOU'RE
TALKING ABOUT.

>> NO.

>> IN STREET TREES THERE'S A
VALUE PLACED ON THE DIAMETER OF
THE TREE.

AND SO THAT GETS PAID TO THE
BOSTON PARKS DEPARTMENT, AND WE
USE THAT FOR PLANTING, AND FOR
TREE ACTIVITY.

>> SO WALK ME THROUGH THIS
THING.

I WOULD -- A STREET TREE -- A
HEALTHY STREET TREE BEING
REMOVED --

>> IF IT HAS TO BE REMOVED --
>> FOR CURB CUT.

>> AS PART OF THE TREE HEARING
PROCESS FOR WHATEVER REASON,
WHETHER IT'S A LARGE-SCALE
DEVELOPMENT, OR IT'S THE
RECONFIGURATION OF A HOME OR ADA
COMPLIANCE, THINGS LIKE THAT,
THERE'S A VALUE PLACED ON THAT
TREE BASED ON THE DIAMETER, AND
PROONENT HAS TO ACTUALLY
REIMBURSE THE CITY FOR THE COST
OF THAT.

>> AND HOW MUCH REVENUE HAVE WE
GENERATED FOR THAT?

>> I WOULD HAVE TO -- I CAN GET
THOSE NUMBERS BACK TODAY.

>> I WOULDN'T IMAGINE A LOT.

>> NO.

AND AGAIN, THAT'S REALLY JUST
THE SMALL SLIVER OF THE STREET
TREES.

SO IT DOESN'T TALK ABOUT WHAT I
THINK WHAT YOU'RE -- THE ROOT OF
YOUR QUESTION WAS, IS DO WE HAVE
A POLICY ON DEVELOPMENT?

NO.

BUT I WOULD SAY THAT THE BPDA
AND THE ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT,
ALONG WITH THE PARKS DEPARTMENT,
HAS SHOWN GREAT LEADERSHIP IN
PRIORITIZING TREE PROTECTION.
AND SO WHAT WE SUSPECT IS THAT

FURTHER ANALYSIS WILL BEGIN THE DEVELOPMENT OF, YOU KNOW, TREE PROTECTION STANDARDS. WHICH WOULD BE IMPORTANT MOVING FORWARD.

>> DO YOU KNOW OF ANYONE AWARE OF WHAT OTHER CITIES ARE DOING IN REGARD TO THAT?

>> OTHER CITIES DO PROTECT TREES ON PRIVATE PROPERTY. AND OTHER CITIES HAVE NO TREE PROTECTION WHATSOEVER.

>> SURE, SURE.

NO, AND I THINK AGAIN, WE'RE DOING WELL.

AND EVEN THE SORT OF DEFAULT POLICY THAT EXISTS NOW IS A GOOD ONE.

I'D JUST LOVE TO SEE US SORT OF STRENGTHEN IT AND TO MAYBE BE ABLE TO GET YOU GUYS MORE RESOURCES, NONTAXPAYER FUNDED RESOURCES TO ADDRESS THIS.

THAT'S ONE.

THE SECOND IS, THE GAS COMPANIES.

I WAS VERY PROUD AND MAYOR WALSH SIGNED IT INTO LAW, WE HAVE SEVERAL MOTHERS OUT FRONT HERE PASSING THE GAS LEAKS ORDINANCE RIGHT AFTER CHRISTMAS SEVERAL YEARS AGO.

IT'S CURRENTLY IN MITIGATION BECAUSE THE UTILITY COMPANIES ARE TAKING US TO COURT.

BUT A HUGE PERCENTAGE OF THAT IS OF THE TREES THAT DIE AFTER THREE MONTHS, OR A YEAR, HAVE TO DO WITH THE 3500 GAS LEAKS OR SO IN THE CITY OF BOSTON.

SO I WONDER, IS THERE ANY MECHANISM FOR THE UTILITIES TO HAVE TO, WHEN WE CAN SHOW A CLEAR CAUSE OF DEATH OF A TREE BY A GAS LEAK IS THERE ANY MECHANISM HERE THAT WE CAN RECOUP SOME OF THE COST FROM THE UTILITY COMPANIES?

>> TO MY KNOWLEDGE WE HAVEN'T DONE THAT YET.

IS THAT CORRECT?

>> WELL, COUNCILOR, AS YOU KNOW FROM THE ORDINANCE INSTRUCTS THE ADMINISTRATION TO DEVELOP A

PROCEDURE.

>> YES.

>> FOR THAT.

MEMBERS OF MY DEPARTMENT HAVE BEEN DOING THAT.

WE HAVE BEEN, YOU KNOW, BOTH IN TERMS OF COLLECTING MORE DATA, OR DEVELOPING PROTOCOLS TO COLLECT MORE DATA, AND ALSO, TO LOOK AT PROTOCOLS FOR MAKING THE KIND OF DETERMINATION THAT, YOU KNOW, DESCRIBE ABOUT, YOU KNOW, THAT -- THERE ARE SOME DIFFERENCES OF OPINION ABOUT WHETHER YOU CAN SAY FOR CERTAIN THAT THIS TREE WAS KILLED BY A GAS LEAK.

WE HAVE BEEN WORKING WITH SEVERAL RESEARCHERS IN BOSTON TO TRY TO DEVELOP -- CAN WE DEVELOP A CLEAR PROTOCOL THAT WE CAN USE IN A LEGAL PROCESS, IF NECESSARY, BUT AT LEAST IN DISCUSSIONS.

SO WE'RE CONTINUING TO WORK PASS THAT INSTRUCTION.

>> ANY IDEA WHAT THE TIMELINE WOULD BE?

I UNDERSTAND LITIGATION IS PENDING.

BUT BY THE END OF THE SUMMER, THE CALENDAR YEAR?

YOU THINK WE COULD HAVE SOME -- IT'S IN YOUR DEPARTMENT, CARL.

>> I'M ALWAYS RELUCTANT TO GIVE YOU A DATE, COUNCILLOR.

OUR THINKING THAT IF WE CAN DEVELOP A DRAFT PROTOCOL TO PUT IT OUT AND LET PEOPLE COMMENT ON IT, YOU KNOW, FOR ALL THE STAKEHOLDERS AND PEOPLE IN THE NEIGHBORS THAT MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN THIS TO EXAMINE IT AND HAVE A FIRM BASIS FOR MAKING THOSE DETERMINATIONS, BOTH WITHIN, YOU KNOW, THE PARK DEPARTMENT, THE ENVIRONMENTAL DEPARTMENT AND OTHER DEPARTMENTS INVOLVED AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY.

>> FINALLY, THERE WAS A PHOTO THAT CAUGHT MY ATTENTION.

I FORGET THE TOWN.

IT WAS IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST.

THE CITY PLANTED A TREE AND THEY HAD A CARD ON IT THAT READ "THIS TREE WILL GIVE US \$293 OF BENEFITS THIS YEAR" AND ILLUMINATED STORM WATER RUN OFF, 6500 GALLONS. ELECTRICAL ENERGY SAVINGS, 206

KILOWATTS.

SEEMS LIKE A SIMPLE THING BUT A GREAT WAY TO EXPLAIN TO MORE PEOPLE THE BENEFITS OF THIS. I HOPE THAT WE COULD DO THAT. I THINK BETWEEN THE BRILLIANT PEOPLE SITTING BEFORE US RIGHT NOW THAT WE COULD FIGURE OUT WAYS TO PHRASE THAT AND GET THAT OUT THERE.

>> THAT'S A GOOD IDEA.

I'LL TALK ABOUT THE CARD THAT WE DO PLACE ON OUR NEW TREES.

IF YOU MIND TALKING ABOUT THE CARD THAT WE PUT UP BUT THE INSPIRATION FOR THE CART.

>> BEACON HILL ASSOCIATION STARTED TO PUTTING PLACARDS ON TREES IN BEACON HILL SAYING THEY WERE NEWLY PLANTED AND TELLING THEM ABOUT THE TREE AND HOW THEY COULD FIND OUT MORE INFORMATION FROM OUR WEBSITE AS WELL AS HOW TO CARE FOR A TREE.

SO WHAT WE HAVE DONE IS I CREATED A CARD SIMILAR TO THEIRS THAT FROM THE PARKS DEPARTMENT ITSELF THAT SAYS WE PLANTED THIS TREE HERE, PLEASE WATER IT X AMOUNT OF TIMES WITH HOW MANY GALLONS OF WATER, 15 TO 20 IN THE WATER BAG AND YOU CAN GO TO THIS WEBSITE IF YOU WANT TO FIND OUT HOW TO MAINTAIN MULCHING THE TREE PUT, MAINTAINING IT IN THE FUTURE AND ANY REQUESTS OR QUESTIONS THAT THEY CAN GET TO US AND I'LL WILL ANSWER OR OUR STAFF WILL ANSWER IT, SO ON AND SO FORTH.

THAT SEEMS TO BE A HIT SO FAR WITH PEOPLE UNDERSTANDING WHAT THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO BE DOING. IT'S CREATING MORE LEG WORK ON OUR END ANSWERING QUESTIONS BUT BETTER TO HAVE QUESTIONS THAN

PEOPLE DOING NOTHING ABOUT IT.
>> FANTASTIC.
I WASN'T AWARE OF THAT.
THANK YOU FOR THAT WORK.
EXPANDING IT MAY BE AND
INCORPORATING TECHNOLOGY WITH A
Q.R. CODE.
>> YEAH, THAT WOULD BE AWESOME.
>> ABSOLUTELY.
>> WITH RESPECT TO ALL OF OUR
GUESTS, THAT'S ALL FOR MY
QUESTIONS FOR THIS ROUND.
COUNCILLOR PRESSLEY?
>> THANK YOU, MR. CHAIR.
FROM A 311 PERSPECTIVE, GETTING
BACK TO THE TWO-WAY
CONVERSATION, DO YOU TRACK SORT
OF DATA ON -- WHERE THE REQUESTS
ARE COMING FROM THE MOST?
DO YOU HAVE A SENSE OF THAT?
COULD YOU SPEAK TO NEIGHBORHOODS
THAT HAVE MADE THE MOST REQUESTS
FOR TREES BY 311?
>> COUNCILLOR, THE INFORMATION,
WE'D BE HAPPY TO ANALYZE AND
RETURN BACK TO YOU.
>> THANK YOU.
ALSO, JUST SO THAT I'M CLEAR AND
FOR THE RECORD, SO THE CITY
CURRENTLY HAS IN ITS BUDGET HOW
MANY ARBORISTS OR TREE --
>> THERE'S FIVE INDIVIDUALS IN
THE URBAN FOREST DIVISION.
FIVE ARBORISTS AND TWO TREE
WARDENS.
THEY'RE NOT DIFFERENT POSITIONS.
THEY WEAR DIFFERENT HATS.
>> DIFFERENT HATS.
IS THAT COMMENSURATE OR ON PAR
WITH COMPARABLE WITH CITIES OF
POPULATIONS AND LARGE GOALS
HERE?
>> I'D HAVE TO PROVIDE A
COMPARISON ANALYSIS FOR YOU.
>> ALL RIGHT.
SO FROM A RESOURCE STAND POINT,
I'M THINKING ABOUT OUR LIBRARIES
WHERE AS A BODY WE SEE THE VALUE
OF LIBRARIES AND THANKS TO THE
ADVOCACY OF THOSE GROUPS OVER
TIME AND ALSO THEIR SUPPLEMENTAL
PRIVATE FUND-RAISING AND
COMMUNITY CARE TAKING OF THESE
LIBRARIES, WE'VE MADE GREAT

STRIDES.

I WAS JUST CURIOUS IF THAT EXISTS.

I KNOW THERE'S SOME GROUPS LIKE BACK BAY AND NOAH.

DO YOU HAVE AN INVENTORY OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD AND COMMUNITY-BASED EFFORTS FOCUSED ON THIS?

DO WE HAVE INFORMAL GROUPS NEIGHBORHOOD BY NEIGHBORHOOD?

I WONDER HOW WE CAN SUPPORT THEM.

>> WE HAVE AN INFORMAL LIST AND A FORMAL LIST TO SHARE WITH THE COUNCIL.

I WOULD SAY THEY BREAK DOWN TO TWO DIFFERENT GROUPS.

THERE'S STAFFED NONPROFITS WHO ARE ENGAGED IN THESE ACTIVITIES AND THEN THERE'S TOTAL VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATIONS.

SO VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATIONS WOULD INCLUDE GROUPS LIKE SOUTHEAST TREES AND THEN YOU HAVE THE CONSERVANCIES AND FRIENDS OF THE PUBLIC GARDENS, BOTH OF WHICH HAVE MADE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE URBAN CANOPY.

I'D BE REMISS --

>> I UNDERSTAND.

WE DON'T WANT TO LEAVE ANYONE OUT.

SHOW AN EQUALITY OF LOVE.

I WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT THEY GET THEIR CREDIT AND THEY'RE BEING MORE INTENTIONAL.

THEY'RE PROVIDING AN INCREDIBLE SERVICE.

>> THEY ARE.

THEY HAVE MOVED THE NEEDLE.

WHAT IS INTERESTING IS, WE'RE HOPEFUL FOR FURTHER CANOPY STUDIES BECAUSE THOSE AT THAT ADVOCACY OF THOSE GROUPS HAVE CHANGED THE WAY WE APPROACH OUR LARGE SCALE CAPITAL PROJECT FOR PARKS.

WE ADDED OVER 40 TREES TO THE PARK.

WHEN YOU LOOK AT SMITH AND AUSTIN, WE ADDED OVER 150 TREES TO THOSE.

IF IT WASN'T FOR THE ADVOCACY, I

DON'T THINK --

>> THE OTHER THING THAT I'VE LEARNED, THIS IS CONSIDERED A CAPITAL EXPENSE.

IT SEEMS IT SHOULD BE A BUDGET ACROSS ACROSS MANY AGENCIES. CERTAINLY INCLUDING BOSTON PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION.

WE JUST PROVIDED FOR THE COUNCIL THE 2016 ANNUAL REPORT ON THE HEALTH OF BOSTON.

AGAIN GIVEN THE DISPARITIES AND THE OVERLAP, I'M SURE THEY OVERLAY PERFECTLY WITH THOSE COMMUNITIES THAT ALSO NEED TO GROW THEIR TREE CANOPIES.

I WONDERS IF WE HAVE BUDGET NOT LIMITED TO CAPITAL BUT MAYBE EVEN BTB BECAUSE BEING MULTIMODAL AND PASSIONATE ABOUT WALKABILITY, MORE TREES SUPPORT THAT.

MAYBE THAT'S SOMETHING THAT OUR COLLEAGUES SHOULD EXPLORE, A GREATER INVESTMENT AND DOING WHAT YOU'RE DOING ON THE CAPITAL SIDE.

MY FINAL QUESTION IS, I REMEMBER ATTENDING A COMMITTEE MEETING SEVERAL YEARS AGO AS PART OF THE FRANKLIN PARK COALITION TO ADDRESS AN INSECT THAT WAS KILLING TREES.

SO I JUST WANTED TO ASK IF IT'S ANYTHING THAT WE NEED TO BE AWARE OF AND SPECIFICALLY CURIOUS ABOUT THE EMERALD ASH BORER OR DUTCH ELM DISEASE. THESE ARE THINGS THAT WE NEED TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT.

>> VERY CONCERNED ABOUT TO ILLUMINATE --

>> DUTCH ELM DISEASE HAS BEEN HERE SINCE THE 1940s.

WE HAVE AN ACTIVE PROGRAM WHICH BASICALLY BOILS DOWN TO REMOVAL OF INFECTED TREES.

WE ALSO MONITOR THE BUGS THEMSELVES SO WE CAN BETTER KNOW WHEN TO APPLY INSECT CONTROLS AND THE FUNGICIDE CONTROLS.

THE INSECT IS WHAT BRINGS THE FUNGUS TO THE DIFFERENT TREE. EMERALD ASH BORER, WE DON'T HAVE

IT YESTERDAY BUT WE'LL HAVE IT.
THE GOOD NEWS FOR US, IT WON'T
BE AS DEVASTATING AS OTHER PARTS
OF THE COUNTRY AND CANADA.

WE DON'T HAVE A LOT OF ASH
TREES.

THE 2006 INVENTORY HAD ABOUT 6%.
IN THE 15 YEARS I'VE BEEN HERE,
WE HAVEN'T PLANTED A SINGLE ASH
TREE.

SO WE'RE GOING TO LOSE SOME
TREES.

WE RAN THE NUMBERS.

IT'S GOING TO BE A SIGNIFICANT
AMOUNT OF MONEY TO REMOVE ALL OF
OUR ASH TREES.

YOU HAVE TWO CHOICES.

YOU CAN REMOVE THEM OR TREAT
THEM.

THE EMERALD CONSERVANCY WILL
START ACTIVELY TREATING SOME
SIGNIFICANT ASH TREES.

OTHER THAN THAT, WE'LL PROBABLY
LOSE ALL OF OUR ASH TREES.

>> COUNCILLOR, I APOLOGIZE TO
CLARIFY.

THE EMERALD ASH BORER HAS BEEN
FOUND IN MASSACHUSETTS.

IT'S NOT BEEN FOUND IN BOSTON
PARKS.

>> CORRECT.

AND THE MEETING YOU ATTENDED WAS
FOR THE ASIAN LONG HORN BEETLING
WAS DECLARED ERADICATED IN THE
CITY OF BOSTON.

>> SO YOU CAN HAVE SUCCESS
THROUGH TREATMENT?

>> YES.

IT'S ONGOING.

>> I WOULD JUST CAUTION ANY
OPTIMISM AROUND THE EMERALD ASH
BORER IN PLACES WHERE THAT IT'S
BEEN PRESENT.

IT'S THE ERADICATION OF THE ASH
SPECIES.

>> YOU LOOK AT THE ASIAN LONG
HORN BEETLE.

THEY REMOVED MOST OF THE TREES.
A BETTER, FASTER, Ñi QUICKER WAY OF
GETTING THE PASTS OUT OF THERE.
TREATING IS NOT 100% SUCCESSFUL
AND COSTS A LOT AND YOU'LL DO IT
EVERY YEAR TO SAVE ONE TREE AND
THAT'S WHY WE DON'T PLANT ONE

SPECIES OF TREES.
WE PLANT 30 SO WE DON'T HAVE
THIS PROBLEM AGAIN.
BUT THERE'S A BIG DISCUSSION
BETWEEN TREATING AND REMOVAL
OPTIONS.
>> THANKS VERY MUCH.
>> THANK YOU, COUNCILLOR
PRESSLEY BEFORE I GET TO
COUNCILLOR FLYNN.
WITH THE ASIAN LONG HORN BEETLES
IN 2011, I WAS A NEWLY ELECTED
COUNCILLOR.
MET WITH OTHERS FROM THE
ARBORETUM.
IT WAS A CASE STUDY OF HOW TO
HANDLE IT.
THE ARBORETUM LOST TWO OR THREE
TREES.
IN WORCESTER COUNTY, IT WAS
ABOUT 60,000 TREES THAT HAD TO
BE REMOVED.
THAT'S ABOUT 35,000 OR 40,000
TREES IN THE ENTIRETY OF THE
ARBORETUM.
IT WAS DONE EXCEPTIONALLY WELL.
COULD HAVE BEEN DEVASTATING.
KUDOS TO YOUR SHOP.
THE FEDS CAME IN.
I KNOW MANY PEOPLE WERE PART OF
THE CONVERSATIONS.
IT WAS HANDLED EXCEPTIONALLY
WELL AND WE HAVEN'T SEEN A
REEMERGENCE.
THANK YOU, COUNCILLOR FLYNN.
DID YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS?
>> THANK YOU.
COUNCILLOR O'MALLEY AND
COUNCILLOR PRESSLEY, THANK YOU
FOR YOUR LEADERSHIP.
I APOLOGIZE FOR BEING LATE.
I HAD A MEETING ON PUBLIC SAFETY
ISSUES.
I WANTED TO ASK A COUPLE OF
QUESTIONS.
COULD YOU RUN US THROUGH --
MAYBE YOU ANSWERED IT ALREADY.
I APOLOGIZE.
COULD YOU RUN US THROUGH THE
PROCEDURE OF NOTIFYING THE
PUBLIC IF A TREE NEEDS TO BE
REMOVED, WHAT DOES THAT -- WHAT
IS THAT PROCESS LIKE WHAT IS THE
NOTIFICATION LIKE AND WHAT ARE

THE REASONS?

THE REASON I'M GETTING AT IT, I HAVE SEEN OVER MANY YEARS, YOU KNOW, WITH THE ONGOING DEVELOPMENT ACROSS CITY, ARE WE LOSING TREES BECAUSE OF CONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE CITY.

>> I JUST WANT TO BE CLEAR ABOUT TWO DIFFERENT THINGS.

I'LL LET GREG TALK YOU THROUGH THE TREE REMOVING PROCESS.

WE REMOVE THEM ON A REGULAR BASIS FOR EMERGENCY PURPOSES. THAT'S USUALLY WHEN THE TREE HAS HIT THE GROUND.

THERE'S CASES THAT IT'S LEANING SO PRECIPITOUSLY THAT WE HAVE TO REMOVE IT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH PURPOSES.

IN THAT WORK, IN THAT EMERGENCY TREE WORK, WE DON'T NOTIFY THE COMMUNITY.

OFTEN THAT'S IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT OR THE HEIGHT OF A STORM.

BUT THEN AS FAR AS THE OFFICIAL TREE HEARING PROCESS, I'D LIKE GREG TO SPEAK TO THAT.

>> IN THE CASE OF DEVELOPMENT FOR A CURB CUT OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT, WE ADVERTISE IT FOR TWO WEEKS IN THE "BOSTON GLOBE" AND THEN A SIGN GOES ON THE TREE. ANY ABUTTERS HAVE A CHANCE TO COME TO THE HEARING, E-MAIL OR PHONE CALL TO WEIGH-IN WHETHER THEY'RE IN SUPPORT OF IT OR FOR OR AGAINST THE REMOVAL OF THE TREE.

>> IF THERE'S NO RESPONSE FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD, GENERALLY WOULD THAT TREE BE REMOVED?

>> YEAH, IF NOBODY PROTESTS, YES.

THE WAY THE LAW IS STATED, WE CAN ALLOW THE REMOAL OF THAT TREE.

>> I DON'T KNOW IF I'M ON BOARD WITH THAT POLICY.

WHAT ABOUT IF YOU DON'T SEE THE NOTIFICATION IN THE GLOBE OR YOU DON'T SEE IT ON THE TREE AND YOU'RE OUT OF LUCK?

>> YEAH, WE JUST GO BY THE GUIDELINES IN CHAPTER 87, MASS GENERAL LAWS. WE FULFILL THE REQUIREMENTS.

>> SO WE'RE GOING TO TEAR DOWN ONE TREE TO GET THE BENEFIT OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD SO SOMEONE CAN GET ACCESS TO PARK SOMETHING.

>> WE'LL HAVE THE CHIEF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT --

>> TO ADD TO THAT, THERE'S A DESIGN REVIEW PROCESS THAT ACCOMPANIES THE TREE HEARING PROCESS.

IF WE SEE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR MODIFICATIONS IN A PROPOSED DESIGN TO TAKE PLACE, IT WOULD ALLOW PROTECTION OF THAT TREE, THAT IS ABSOLUTELY PART OF THE PROCESS.

A LOT OF TIMES WE'RE SEEING THE SAME PROJECTS COME TO THE PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT PROCESS, WHICH IS ALSO A DESIGN REVIEW PROCESS. SO THERE'S TWO OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE PARKS DEPARTMENT TO WEIGH-IN TO HELP PROTECT TREES THROUGH DESIGN MODIFICATIONS.

IF WE CAN HAVE THEM SHIFT THE DRIVEWAY OR REMOVE THE TREE BECAUSE THERE'S NOT ENOUGH SPACE FROM WHERE THEY'RE PROPOSING THE CURB CUTS, WE LOOK AT IT ON A CASE BY CASE BASIS AND SAY WE CAN MAKE THIS WORK IF YOU CUTS DOWN YOUR DRIVEWAY A LITTLE BIT. WE ALWAYS LOOK FOR THOSE OPPORTUNITIES, WHETHER PEOPLE PROTEST IT OR NOT.

>> COULD WE ASK IF THE MAYOR'S OFFICE OF NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES AND THE DISTRICT CITY COUNCIL COULD BE AWARE OF THOSE MEETINGS TO GET FORCE OUT?

>> WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE BETTER NOTIFICATION.

>> THE DISTRICT CITY COUNCIL?

>> YES.

>> I'D LIKE TO KNOW WHEN A TREE IS GOING TO POSSIBLY BE REMOVED FROM MY DISTRICT.

THAT WOULD BE IMPORTANT TO ME. I WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT I HAVE INFORMATION THAT I WOULD NEED TO

EXPLAIN TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD WHY IT'S HAPPENING INSTEAD OF FINDING OUT IN THE END AND EXPLAINING WHAT HAPPENED, WHAT THE PROCESS WAS.

I'D LIKE TO KNOW ALMOST ON DAY ONE.

THANK YOU.

>> THANK YOU.

>> OKAY.

JUST A QUICK FOLLOW UP.

I WANT TO THANK OUR CHAIR FOR THIS HEARING AND CERTAINLY FOR THE SPONSOR, COUNCILLOR PRESSLEY, TO SOME FOLLOW UP QUESTIONS.

ONE, I HEARD YOU MENTION THAT WE'RE GOING TO LOSE SOME TREES.

I THINK YOU SAID IT BASED ON THESE DISEASES OUT HERE.

IS THERE A PLAN TO REPLACE THEM IN PLACE?

DO WE KNOW WHEN WE'RE GOING TO LOSE THE TREES AND AT WHAT POINT WE'RE GOING TO BE PLANTING NEW TREES TO TAKE THEIR PLACE?

>> IT'S JUST AN APPROXIMATION BUT WE WOULD SUSPECT THAT ASH MIGHT REPRESENT 10% OF THE OVERALL CANOPY.

THAT'S SUSCEPTIBLE TO THE EMERALD ASH BORER.

YOU THINK IT'S OVER TIME THAT WE WOULD REMOVE A LOT OF ASH TREES AS PART OF THAT.

A LOT OF THAT CANOPY WOULD BE ON PLACE THAT'S WE CONSIDER PARKLAND OR OTHER HIGHLY VEGETATED AREAS.

SO I THINK AS OUR ANALYSIS OF THIS THREAT PROCEEDS, WE WOULD HAVE TO BE AGGRESSIVE OF REPLANTING IN THOSE AREAS.

>> AND AGAIN, JUST BACK TO THE 311.

REALLY IMPORTANT TO LOOK AT HAVING AN OVERALL PLAN, MAKING SURE THAT EQUITY IS AT THE FOREFRONT JUST BECAUSE WE KNOW EVERYONE IS UTILIZING THE 311 SYSTEM.

TO FOLLOW UP, IT WAS YOU, COMMISSIONER COOK, AROUND WATERING.

YOU MENTIONED THAT IF YOU'RE GOING TO PLANT A NEW TREE, IT'S IMPORTANT THAT RESIDENTS TAKE OWNERSHIP.

THAT IS A TREE THAT IS IN FRONT OF SOMEONE'S HOME.

THEY REQUESTED A TREE.

THEY'RE GOING TO ADOPT THAT TREE JUST LIKE THEY WOULD SHOVEL OUT THE HYDRANT ON THE STREET, THEY WOULD ADOPT THAT TREE AND TAKE CARE OF IT AND WATER IT.

LET ME ASK YOU ABOUT LARGER GREEN SPACES THAT ARE NOT QUITE PARKS.

SO OVER THE WEEKEND, I WAS IN THE SOUTH END.

I THINK IT WAS RUTLAND SCARE HAS A NICE LITTLE GREEN SPACE THERE. ACTUALLY, A GIANT LARGE TREE, TOO.

I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S ADA COMPLAINT.

TAKES UP THE WHOLE SIDEWALK. BUT THEY HAVE THIS ISLAND IN THE MIDDLE OF THE STREET.

I NOTICED A HOSE AND A WATERING BOX.

I WONDER HOW OTHER COMMUNITIES GET ACCESS TO THOSE THINGS TO TAKE CARE OF THE TREES AND THE GREEN SPACE WHEN THEY HAVE IT? THERE'S CHESTER PARK, ELM HILL PARK.

HOW DO WE MAKE SURE THAT WHEN IT'S NOT THE TREE IN FRONT OF YOUR HOUSE BUT THIS LARGER SPACE THAT RESIDENTS HAVE ACCESS TO THE WATER THAT THEY NEED TO CARE FOR THE GREEN SPACE ON THE STREET.

>> SOME OF THE PARKS ARE WHERE THE COMMUNITY INVESTED IN THE PARKS DEPARTMENT.

I WILL SAY THAT THE MAJORITY OF THOSE SYSTEMS THAT ARE IN PLACE ARE FOR ORNAMENTAL WATERING. SO THOSE ARE FOR THE ORNAMENTAL PLANTINGS THAT ARE PRESENT THERE.

THEY'RE NOT REALLY USED FOR TREES.

TREES IN PARK LANDS ARE NOT UNDER THE SAME STRESSES AS THE

STREET TREES.

WHETHER IT'S FLUSHING OUT THE BUILD-UP OF SALT IN THE ROOT SYSTEMS OR FLUSHING OUT OTHER THINGS LIKE -- OTHER WASTE FROM THE STREET.

WE'LL BE HAPPY TO PARTNER WITH ANY COMMUNITY GROUP THAT IS INTERESTING IN TAKING CARE OF THE TREES.

>> I'D LIKE TO FOLLOW UP ON THAT.

BUT THAT'S IT FOR NOW.

>> I'LL END WITH MY FAVORITE QUESTION TO ASK YOU.

COMMISSIONER COOK, WHAT IS THE AVERAGE MINUTE WALK THAT EVERY BOSTONIAN HAS TO A PARK?

>> NOT EVERY BOSTONIAN BUT NEARLY EVERY ONE CAN WALK IN TEN MINUTES OR LESS.

>> THANKS.

I'D INVITE OUR NEXT PANEL DOWN BEFORE WE HEAR FROM PUBLIC TESTIMONY.

THANK YOU.

FOR OUR SECOND PANEL, WE HAVE AMANDA, LUCY, PAIGE AND MELINDA. IF YOU WOULDN'T MIND JOINING US DOWN HERE.

GOOD AFTERNOON.

OKAY.

WELCOME.

YOU WANT TO INTRODUCE YOURSELF? IF YOU HAVE A BRIEF OPENING STATEMENT AND THEN GO DOWN THE LINE.

>> SURE.

I'M AMANDA RICH.

I'M WITH SPEAK FOR THE TREES.

THANKS FOR HAVING US.

IT'S WONDERFUL TO SEE A LOT OF FAMILIAR FACES.

THANKS FOR LISTENING TO US TODAY.

>> THANK YOU.

>> HI.

I'M PAIGE WARREN.

I'M A PROFESSOR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS.

I'VE BEEN DOING URBAN ECOLOGY RESEARCH FOR TEN YEARS IN LOTS OF CITIES AROUND THE COUNTRY. ONE OF MY AREAS OF EXPERTISE IS

EQUITY AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF
BENEFITS TO THE PEOPLE IN THE
CITY.

>> THANK YOU.

>> HELLO.

HOLA.

I'M MELINDA VEGA.

I'M THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
COORDINATOR IN EASE BOSTON
NEIGHBORHOOD FOR AFFORDABLE
HOUSING.

I'M JUST VERY THANKFUL FOR BEING
HERE.

THANK YOU.

>> I'M LUCY FROM BOSTON

UNIVERSITY.

FOR THE NEARLY TEN YEARS, MY
RESEARCH LAB IS STUDYING
VEGETATION IN THE CITY OF BOSTON
AND GREENHOUSE GASSES AND
EMISSIONS IN THE CITY.

>> THANK YOU.

>> I'M DEVINE I'M CO-FOUNDER
WITH AMANDA RICH OF A NEW
ORGANIZATION CALLED SPEAK FOR
THE TREES.

OUR ORGANIZATION IS COMMITTED
BUILDING A LARGE AND HEALTHY
TREE CANOPY IN BOSTON.

I'D LIKE TO BEGIN BY THANKING
SEVERAL PEOPLE IN THIS ROOM FOR
CONVENING THIS HEARING AND
INVITING US TO TESTIFY,
ESPECIALLY COUNCILLORS PRESLEY
AND O'MALLEY.

CONSIDERING THE PRESS AND
RESPONSE OF THIS HEARING HAS
RECEIVED, THIS IS CLEARLY AN
ISSUE THAT HAS RESONATED WITH
MANY CITIZENS AROUND THE CITY.

I'D LIKE TO THANK THE PREVIOUS
PANEL AND COMMISSIONERS COOK AND
THEIR STAFF FOR SHARING WITH US
THEIR WORK.

THEY CLEARLY HAVE MAINTAINED A
HEALTHY TREE CANOPY AND WITH
LIMITED RESOURCES ARE COMMITTED
TO MAKING SURE THAT IT GROWS AND
CONTINUES TO PROSPER FOR THE
FUTURE.

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE MANY
PEOPLE WE HAVE SPOKEN TO.

AMANDA AND I HAVE BEEN ABOUT
THIS FOR 18 MONTHS AND WORKED

TIRELESSLY ON THIS ISSUE.
I'M GOING TO TAKE THE FIFTH ON
LISTING EVERYBODY THAT HAS
HELPED.
BUT MANY RESIDENTS AND
ORGANIZATIONS AND GOVERNMENT
OFFICIALS AND WE'RE AMAZED BY
YOUR DEVOTION AND HARD WORK.
I'D LIKE TO THANK THE BEINGS FOR
WHO WE ALL ARE HERE FOR, THE
TREES.
IN EVERY SENSE OF THE WORD, WE
WOULDN'T BE HERE IF IT WASN'T
FOR THEM.
SO TODAY BOSTON LIKE MANY CITIES
ACROSS THE COUNTRY ARE
RECOGNIZING THE MULTIPLE
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL BENEFIT.
THEY MITIGATE AGAINST URBAN HEAT
ISLANDS, THEY CLEAN OUR AIR AND
WATER AND IMPROVE OUR HEALTH
AMONG MANY OTHERS.
THESE BENEFITS ARE NOT ONLY
SHARED IN BOSTON AND NOT IN
OTHER CITIES.
ALTHOUGH WE RECOGNIZE THAT TREES
ALONE WON'T SOLVE THE PROBLEMS
WE FACE CONCERNING CLIMATE AND
HEALTH, WE RECOGNIZE TREES SERVE
AN IMPORTANT COMPONENT BRINGING
US TOGETHER BUILDING A MORE
HEALTHY AND EQUITABLE CITY.
I'M HERE TO PROVIDE CONTEXT OF
THE PAST WORK WITH URBAN TREE
CANOPY IN BOSTON AND SUGGEST
WAYS TO MOVE FORWARD.
MY COLLEAGUES WILL PROVIDE
SCIENCE TO BACK US WHAT AMANDA
AND I HAVE AS A MISSION.
AS RECENTLY TEN YEARS AGO,
BOSTON WAS A NATIONAL LEADER IN
URBAN FORESTRY.
WE BROUGHT TOGETHER MULTIPLE
NONPROFITS AND WORKED TO
ADVOCATE FOR MORE TREES.
AS YOU'RE AWAY IN 2007, THE
MAYOR PRONOUNCED BOSTON WOULD
REACH 35% CANOPY COVERAGE.
BY 2020, A PROMISE BY MAYOR
WALSH AND EXTENDED TO 2030.
IT'S DIFFICULT TO GAUGE HOW
WE'RE MOVING IN RELATION TO THIS
GOAL AND HOW WE PLAN TO REACH
IT.

THE PAST 1 1/2 YEARS, WE'VE
EXPLORED THIS.
WE MET PEOPLE AT PARKS AND OTHER
RESIDENTS ON THIS ISSUE AND
PEOPLE THAT CARE DEEPLY ABOUT
TREES.
WE HAVE FOUND MANY SUCCESS
STORIES.
WE INVITED ONE SUCCESS STORY.
WE FOUND THEM BIG AND SMALL.
THIS IS CRUCIAL AND IMPORTANT
WORK THAT MUST BE SUPPORTED AND
MUST BE EXPANDED.
YET DESPITE THE POSITIVE
PARTNERSHIPS, IT APPEARS WE'RE
NO CLOSER TO THE MAYOR'S GOAL
AND WE ASK WHY IS THIS.
WE LOOKED AT OTHER CITIES TO SEE
WHAT THEY'RE DOING.
IN THE COMMONWEALTH, THERE'S
MANY URBAN TREE ORGANIZATIONS
AND NONPROFITS THAT ARE
SUPPORTED WITH FUNDS FROM STATE
AND NATIONAL AGENCIES.
THEIR WORK HAS BEEN GUIDED BY
LONG-TERM PLANNING.
SIMILARLY ACROSS THE COUNTRY,
THERE'S SIMILAR STORIES-WITH
MEASURABLE ACTIONS DRIVE
CORONATION BETWEEN STATE AND
MUNICIPAL LEVELS THAT ENROLL
MULTIPLE LAUERS IN THE CITY
INCLUDING CORPORATIONS, NATIONAL
AND LOCAL NONPROFITS, MUNICIPAL
AGENCIES AND RESIDENTS.
WE'VE SEEN NO REASON WHY BOSTON
WITH ITS ENORMOUS TALENT AND
RESOURCES CANNOT RETURN TO BE A
LEADER IN THIS FIELD.
WE'RE COMMITTED AS AN
ORGANIZATION TO BRING PEOPLE
TOGETHER THE PLANT COMMUNITY
TREES TO BUILD A HEALTHY URBAN
FOREST.
WE HEARD OF INNOVATIVE NEW WAYS
THAT PARKS HAS TAKEN THE LEAD ON
THIS AND WE'RE EAGER TO BE A
PARTNER WITH THEM.
WITH HOPE THIS WILL BE A FIRST
STEP NO FOLLOWING THROUGH ON A
DECADE OLD VISION FOR A HEALTHY
URBAN CANOPY.
THIS VISION DOES NOT STAND
ALONE.

IT'S CONNECTED TO BOSTON EFFORTS TO BUILD A RESILIENT CITY, CLEMENS MY READY BOSTON AND OTHER EFFORTS LIKE CARBON-FREE BOSTON.

TREES CANNOT BE ANOTHER ADD ON. THEY REQUIRE A COHERENT ACTION PLAN THAT ALIGNS WITH CITIES MULTIPLE SHORT TERM AND LONG-TERM GOES.

SO AS WE EMBARK ON A HEALTHY URBAN TREE CANOPY, WE WORK FORWARD TO LOOKING WITH PARKS IN ACHIEVING WHAT WE ALL AGREE IS A CHAIRED VISION END GOAL.

THANK YOU.

>> THANK YOU.

DOES ANYONE HAVE ANY BRIEF OPENING STATEMENTS OR CAN WE GET INTO IT?

PERFECT.

THANK YOU.

SO PROFESSOR I'M GOING TO PUNT THE QUESTION TO COMMISSIONER COOK.

YOU'RE TREE WITH THE MIT STUDY.

>> I AM.

>> WHY DO YOU THINK THAT NUMBER IS SO DIFFERENCE THAN THE CITY'S NUMBER?

>> BECAUSE THEY SAW A PORTION OF THE CANOPY.

THE ESTIMATES WERE CREATIVE AND TOOK A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE.

THEY ESTIMATED FOR 30 DIFFERENT CITIES AROUND THE WORLD.

IT WAS BASED ON THE STREETVIEW. INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES BUT HAD A LIMITED VIEW DESK.

IT LOOKED Laterally AT THE GOOGLE STREET VIEW CAR AND IT MISSED ANYTHING THAT WAS BEYOND THE FIELD OF VIEW.

>> SO THAT WAS MY THOUGHT.

IF IT DRIVES DOWN THE VFW PARKWAY IN WEST ROXBURY, THEY'RE GOING TO SEE TREES BUT NOT TAKE INTO THE FACT THAT THERE'S 90 ACRES OF TREE.

>> JUST INHERENTLY THE WAY IT'S IMPLEMENTED.

MINIMUM ESTIMATE, NOT AN ACCURATE ESTIMATE.

>> THAT IS HELPFUL.

AND ANYONE CAN SORT OF -- CAN YOU EXPAND ABOUT THE BIKES PROGRAM THAT THE COMMISSIONER REFERENCED?

I HADN'T HEARD ABOUT THAT TODAY. THIS SOUNDS WONDERFUL.

>> LET ME GIVE YOU BACKGROUND. EAST BOSTON IS AN ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMUNITY. WE ARE SURROUNDED BY WATER. SO IT'S A PENINSULA. BUT WE HAVE NO ACCESS TO OUR WATER. WE ARE THE HOME OF THE AIRPORT. WE HAVE A LOT OF LAND SPACE. NOW THIS PROGRAM THAT WE TOUCHED ON IS A TREE CANOPY CAMPAIGN PROGRAM THAT CAME FROM OUR YOUTH PROGRAM. OUR YOUTH ORGANIZERS. THIS IS A CAMPAIGN THAT CAME ABOUT FROM OUR NETWORK THAT WE DO IN EAST BOSTON. BASICALLY -- THE IDEA WAS THAT WE NEED MORE STREET TREES IN BOSTON. WE ARE AT 15%. MORE COMMUNITIES THAT HAVE MORE RESOURCES ARE AT 30% OF THEIR STREET TREES. SO WHEN WE BROUGHT THE IDEAS TO OUR YOUNG PEOPLE, THEY SAY WOW, THAT SOUNDS LIKE AN AMAZING THING TO DO. HOW CAN WE GET THE COMMUNITY BUY-IN. SO WE DID DOOR KNOCKING TO ENGAGE COMMUNITY MEMBERS, WE WENT TO OUR CIVIC ASSOCIATION. AND ASKED FOR THEIR BUY-IN. OF COURSE THEY SAID WE WANT MORE TREES. WE LOVE TREES. BUT THE CHALLENGE IS HOW DO WE MAINTAIN THE TREES. AS THEY MENTIONED, THEIR LIFE SPAN IS BASICALLY A YEAR BECAUSE OF THE LACK OF MAINTENANCE. SO OUR YOUNG PEOPLE CAME BACK AND WE DID SOME BRAIN STORMING. LIKE THIS IS SOMETHING THAT WE WANT TO PURSUE AND DO AS A COMMUNITY. BUT WE HAVE TO COME UP WITH A

PLAN FOR THIS CHALLENGE THAT WE HAVE.

SO OUR YOUTH CAME UP WITH A MAINTENANCE PLAN AND THEY CREATED A PLAN WHERE WE GO AROUND AROUND WATER THE TREES. SO WE HAVE COLLABORATED WITH COMMUNITY MEMBERS FOR THEM TO BE WATER SOURCES.

SO IN ADDITION TO THE PARKS DEPARTMENT FOR SUPPORTING US WITH OUR BIKES, THE OTHER CHALLENGE IS WHERE DO WE GET OUR WATER SOURCE.

SO WE HAVE PARTNERED WITH RESTAURANTS, COMMUNITY MEMBERS ALLOWING TO US USE THEIR WATER FOR A WATER SOURCE FOR OUR TREES.

IF YOU EVER GO TO EAST BOSTON AND YOU SEE A RANGE FROM 5 TO 9 YOUNG PEOPLE USUALLY WEDNESDAYS AND SATURDAYS OR SUNDAYS DURING THE WEEK --

>> DO THEY GET PAID A STIPEND?

>> NO.

THIS IS WORK.

THIS IS NOT OUR ONLY PROJECT OR CAMPAIGN.

THEY WORK AROUND 15 HOURS A WEEK.

DURING THE SUMMER, THIS IS THE ONE CAMPAIGN THAT WE DO FOCUS OUR MOST ENERGY ON BECAUSE WE DO HAVE OTHER PROGRAMMING ACTIVITIES THAT WE DO.

SO THE WAY I LOOK AT IT, OUR TREE CANOPY CAMPAIGN IS ORGANIZING.

SO IF YOU WANT TO COME, DURING THE SUMMER, FOR SURE, YOU'LL ENJOY YOURSELF WITH OUR YOUNG PEOPLE THAT HAVE KAYAKS THERE. THAT'S MORE LIKE A DIRECT SERVICE.

>> THAT'S GREAT.

DO YOU HAVE A SHORTAGE OF YOUNG PEOPLE INTERESTED IN DOING THIS? I'D IMAGINE IT'S A GREAT JOB FOR A YOUNG PERSON, EXTRA MONEY, DO IT, A PUBLIC SERVICE.

I'M HOPEFUL THAT DESPITE THE OUTWARD HOSTILITY COMING FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AS IT

RELATES TO CLIMATE, YOUNG PEOPLE
GET IT.

I THINK WITH EVERY SUCCESSFUL
GENERATION, THAT'S REALLY
IMPORTANT.

SO I WOULD THINK THIS IS FUN.
I WOULD HOPE WE COULD EMULATE
THIS PROGRAM IN OTHER
NEIGHBORHOODS.

SOUNDS FANTASTIC.

THANK YOU.

>> THANK YOU.

>> PROFESSOR WARREN, YOU
MENTIONED EQUITY IN YOUR OPENING
REMARKS.

TALK A LITTLE BIT ABOUT WHAT
WE'RE DOING WELL AS A CITY AND
WHAT YOU THINK WE SHOULD BE
DOING BETTER.

WHAT IS A BETTER WAY TO ADDRESS
THAT.

IF YOU'D BE SO KIND.

>> SLIGHTLY REPHRASE YOUR
QUESTION.

BUT FIRST, I WANTED TO
DISTINGUISH BETWEEN INEQUALITY
AND EQUITY.

INEQUALITY TO ME IS RESPECT TO
THE CANOPY COVER IS THE
DISTRIBUTION IN THE CANOPY COVER
AND DISPARITIES AROUND THE CITY
WITH THE CANOPY COVER.

THE ACCESS OF TREES OR IN THE
PROCESS FOR THE TREE PLANTING
CAN BE AN INEQUITY.

IT REFERS TO RACE OR SOME OTHER
FACTOR LIKE THAT.

SO A LOT OF MY RESEARCH HAS BEEN
DONE HERE IN BOSTON THAT WE
PUBLISHED IN 2014 WHERE WE FOUND
A RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN INCOME
LEVEL AND -- A POSITIVE
RELATIONSHIP WITH INCOME LEVEL
AND CANOPY COVER.

THERE'S AN INEQUITY THERE.

AND I'D SAY THE ANSWERS ARE A
LITTLE BIT MIXED TO THE DEGREE
THAT WE HAVE INEQUITY.

MANY CITIES HAVE INEQUITIES WITH
INCOME AND RACE WITH ACCESS TO
CANOPY COVER.

THERE'S OTHER ANALYSES THAT I
CAN GO INTO DETAIL ABOUT THAT
ARE NATIONWIDE.

I THINK WHAT WE LEARNED MOST FROM OUR ANALYSIS IN 2014, NOT BECAUSE WE WERE BUILDING OUR ANALYSES ON DATA SETS THAT HAVE BEEN DESCRIBED AS SLIDES AND NOT AS ACCESS TO MORE DATA THAT WE HAVE, BUT I THINK WE LEARNED SOME THINGS THAT ARE ROBUST REGARDLESS OF THE DATA THAT WE USED.

WE LOOKED AT DETAILED HIGH RESOLUTION INFORMATION ON BUILDINGS AND GREEN SPACES AS WELL AS THE CANOPY COVER. SO WE FOUND THREE MAJOR ISSUES THAT MAKE IT HARD TO REDRESS THE INEQUALITIES ACROSS THE CITY. ONE IS TO SET LOW CANOPY NEIGHBORHOODS, HAVE FEW PLANTABLE SPACES. THEY HAVE BUILT STRUCTURES IN PLACE THERE.

THIS IS BUILDING ON THE THINGS THAT OUR COLLEAGUES WERE TALKING ABOUT.

YOU KNOW, EVEN WHEN YOU HAVE GREEN SPACE THAT IS THEORETICALLY PLANTABLE, HOW BIG OF A TREE CAN WE FIT INTO IT. IF YOU ACHIEVE A CANOPY COVER GOAL, IT'S NOT JUST THE NUMBER OF TREES BUT HOW BIG THEY CAN GROW.

SO THINGS LIKE HAVING A YARD, PEOPLE'S YARD, PEOPLE WANT SPACE THAT DON'T HAVE TREES ON IT AS WELL AS THOSE THAT DO HAVE TREES.

ALSO ON STREETS LIKE STREET SIGNS, A LOT OF LIMITATIONS TO THE SIZE OF THE TREE THAT YOU CAN PLANT.

THERE'S OVERHEAD WIRES. WE WERE ABLE TO ACCOUNT FOR OVERHEAD WIRES IN OUR ANALYSES. BUT THEY CAN'T ACCOUNT FOR THINGS WHERE YOU CAN PLANT TREES.

THOSE ARE THE ISSUES. THEY'RE THINGS THAT WE CAN BE DEALT WITH FOR ALL OF THE ISSUES THAT HELP US ACHIEVE OUR GOALS. THERE'S PERFECT EQUITY AND EQUALITY ACROSS THE CITY.

MAYBE THERE'S SOME ALTERNATIVES
IN TERMS OF ACCESS.
WE'VE FOUND THAT EVEN SMALL
AMOUNTS OF GREEN SPACE ADDED TO
A HIGH DENSITY NEIGHBORHOOD, WE
FOUND THAT ADDING THE EQUIVALENT
OF TWO PARKING SPACES CAN ADD
HABITAT FOR BIRDS.
THERE'S CLEAR ECOLOGICAL
BENEFITS TO ADDING GREEN SPACE.
>> THANK YOU, PROFESSOR.
FINALLY, FOR ME, AMANDA, TALK
ABOUT THE WORK THAT YOU AND
DEVITA HAVE DONE ON YOUR OPEN
TREE APP AND DIGITAL STRATEGIES
TO ADDRESS THIS.
>> DEFINITELY.
BASICALLY RIGHT NOW WE'RE
PUSHING FOR A COMPREHENSIVE NEW
INVENTORY.
REALLY THERE'S BEEN A LOT OF
DISCUSSION HERE TODAY ABOUT 27%
AND ABOUT THE LYDAR DATA AND THE
TREE CANOPY COVERAGE OVERALL.
ONE OF THE THINGS WE'RE TALKING
ABOUT, WE DON'T KNOW ABOUT THE
AGE OF THE TREES, THE SPECIES
AND WE DON'T KNOW ABOUT THE
HEALTH OF THE TREES.
SO WHAT WE'RE TRYING TO PUSH FOR
IS A NEW COMPREHENSIVE INVENTORY
OF WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE CITY
OF BOSTON.
BECAUSE RECENTLY -- I'LL HAVE
LUCY SPEAK TO IT.
THAT'S WHY SHE'S HERE.
THERE'S A STATISTICAL SAMPLING
THAT WAS DONE A FEW YEARS AGO.
IT GAVE US THE PROFILE OF WHAT'S
GOING ON IN THE CITY OF BOSTON.
BUT WE'RE HOPING TO GO BACK AND
DO A COMPREHENSIVE INVENTORY.
THEY NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE AGE
DISTRIBUTION AND WHAT'S GOING ON
FROM AN AGE STANDPOINT.
THIS IS INFORMATION THAT I
BROUGHT FOR YOU TODAY IN THAT WE
MAY BE SEEING SOME ISSUES IN
RELATION TO NOT PLANTING ENOUGH
YOUNGER TREES.
THAT MAY BE AN ISSUE LATER ON AS
SOME OF THE TREES GROW AND
THAT'S IN SOME OF THE OLDER
TREES OBVIOUSLY FROM THE

MORTALITY RATE, OLDER TREES DIE
AND WE MAY NOT BE PLANTING
ENOUGH TREES TO REPLACE THEM.
WE NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE AGE
DISTRIBUTION.

RIGHT NOW FROM THE PREVIOUS
INVENTORY THAT WAS DONE,
OBVIOUSLY -- EVERYBODY KNOWS
THIS.

MAPLE TREES AND ESPECIALLY THE
NORWAY MAPLE DOMINATES THE
INVENTORY AND THE POPULATION OF
OUR TREES.

SO WHEN COMMISSIONER COOK WAS
TALKING ABOUT SIGNIFICANT
AMOUNTS OF ASH TREES BEING
REMOVED, WE NEED TO HAVE A
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, AN URBAN
FOREST MASTER PLAN TO UNDERSTAND
WHAT NEW SPECIES WILL BE
INTRODUCED WHEN WE START TAKING
SOME OF THESE OUT.

WHEN YOU TALK ABOUT DOMINATION
BY A PARTICULAR SPECIES, THAT'S
A PROBLEM IF WE'RE NOT
UNDERSTANDING ABOUT THE
DIVERSITY.

SO WE PLANT MORE NORWAY MAPLES
AND PLANT A LOT OF THEM AT ONE
TIME, THEY HAVE A DESIGNATED
LIFE SPAN.

SO IF WE PLANT THEM AT ONE TIME,
THEY MAY DIE AT ONE TIME.

THESE PARTICULAR NEIGHBORHOODS
ARE FACING A LOTS OF TREE
REMOVAL AT ONE TIME.

WE DON'T KNOW THE AGE OF A LOT
OF THESE TREES, SO WE NEED TO
UNDERSTAND A LOT MORE ABOUT THE
ACTUAL TREES ON THE GROUND AND
NOT SO MUCH ABOUT 27% CANOPY
COVERAGE OVERALL.

THAT'S WHAT WE'RE TRYING TO DO.
WE'RE WORKING WITH A TEAM OF
EASTERN STUDENTS RIGHT NOW TO
DEVELOP THE NEW PILOT PROTOCOL.

>> ARE YOU ENGAGED AT ALL?

THE CONSERVANCY WAS DOING A
ROBUST TREE CENSUS ON THEIR
PROPERTY.

>> YES.

SO I HAVE NOT TALKED TO THEM
DIRECTLY.

I'VE BEEN LOOKING --

>> I HAVE THAT RIGHT.
YOU'VE BEEN WORKING ON THE TREE
CENSUS.

>> SO I'VE BEEN LOOKING AT THEIR
STUDY, A LOT OF DIFFERENT
STUDIES THAT HAVE BEEN DONE IN
THE CITY OF BOSTON.
SO WE'RE TRYING TO MIMIC
PROTOCOLS THAT HAVE BEEN DONE.
SO IDEALLY WHEN WE MOVE FORWARD
WITH THIS, WE WOULD LIKE TO
BRING THE TEAMS IN TOGETHER IN
ADDITION TO THE STUDY THAT WE
RECENTLY DID TO ESSENTIALLY
MIMIC AND MAKE SURE THAT WE
COLLECT ALL OF THE INFORMATION
TO COMPARE APPLES TO APPLES OVER
TIME.

>> IF I MAY QUICKLY, SO THIS APP
IS ACCESSIBLE AND THE NICE THING
ABOUT IT IS THAT IT PROVIDES AN
OPPORTUNITY FOR PEOPLE TO -- FOR
RESIDENTS IN THE COMMUNITY TO
GET UP AND KNOW AND UNDERSTAND
THEIR CANOPY.
SO OUR MISSION IS TO ENROLL
RESIDENTS WHERE THEY LIVE SO
THEY CAN BECOME ADVOCATES LIKE
WHAT WE SEE IN EAST BOSTON.
IT'S A WONDERFUL MODEL.
WE WOULD LIKE TO WORK OFF OF
THAT MODEL.
ARLINGTON AND CHELSEA HAVE DONE,
CHELSEA IS IN THE PROCESS OF
COMPLETING IT.
ARLINGTON DID A COMPLETE TREE
INVENTORY.
IT IS POSSIBLE FOR CITIES ACROSS
THE COUNTRY TO DO THIS AND IT'S
A WONDERFUL MODEL THAT PROVIDES
THE CITY AND PARKS WITH
IMPORTANT DATA BUT ENROLLS
RESIDENTS IN BECOMING PART OF
THE PROCESS.

>> TURNOUT TODAY IS PROOF
POSITIVE THAT THERE'S TREMENDOUS
INTEREST.
THAT'S ALL FOR THIS ROUND.
THANK YOU, COUNCILLOR PRESSLEY.

>> CAN YOU TELL ME WHAT OTHER
CITIES?

>> TO DO THE OPEN TREE MAP?
IT'S ALL OVER THE COUNTRY.
GO TO THE WEBSITE.

YOU'LL SEE L.A. IS INVOLVED IN IT.
I BELIEVE PENNSYLVANIA HAS ONE ACROSS THE STATE.
I SPOKE TO THE DCL HEAD IN PENNSYLVANIA.
HE CORONATES WITH CITIES THROUGHOUT PENNSYLVANIA.
SO THAT GO OUT AND TRAIN CITIES -- RESIDENTS IN CITIES.
LOCALLY IT'S -- I'M TURNING A PILOT PROGRAM THIS SUMMER.
ARLINGTON COMPLETED ONE AND CHELSEA COMPLETED ONE.
I'D BE HAPPY TO PROVIDE YOU WITH A LIST.
>> THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
>> OTHER CITIES IN THE COMMONWEALTH.
>> I'M NOT SURE.
I KNOW SPRINGFIELD AND WORCESTER HAVE TREE INITIATIVES.
I'M NOT SURE IF THEY'RE USING THE APP.
I'D HAVE TO LOOK.
>> I WANT TO ASK YOU SINCE WE'RE SO INSPIRED AND IMPRESSED AT THE NOAA CDC AND APPRECIATE OUR YOUTH.
CAN YOU TALK ABOUT THE OPERATING COST FOR THAT?
I WANT TO GET A SENSE TO SCALE IF THIS IS SOMETHING THAT WE WANTED TO CHALLENGE OTHER CDCs OR COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS TO DO.
HOW MANY YOUTH, HOW ARE THEY BEING STIPENDED.
>> THEY GET PAID A MINIMUM WAGE AND THEY WORK 15 HOURS THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL YEAR.
YEAH, 15 HOURS A WEEK THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL YEAR.
AND THEN DURING THE SUMMER, IT'S FULL TIME BASICALLY.
>> I WANT TO MENTION THIS.
I DID NOT MENTION IT BEFORE.
OTHER THAN THE MAINTENANCE PIECE OF THIS PROGRAM, WE DO TAKE ADVANTAGE.
OUR YOUTH IS GOING OUT, PRUNING THE TREES.
AT THE SAME TIME THEY'RE DOING THIS, THEY'RE DOOR KNOCKING AND

TALKING TO COMMUNITY MEMBERS,
ADVOCATING FOR THEM, EDUCATING
AND CREATING AWARENESS.
I WANTED TO SHARE A STORY THAT
I -- IT'S MORE IMPORTANT.
WE HAVE DONE THIS FOR ABOUT TWO
YEARS.
THIS IS OUR SECOND SUMMER DOING
THIS PROGRAM.
SO WHEN WE BEGAN THE PROGRAM AND
WE DID THE DOOR KNOCKING, WE
TALKED TO ONE OF THE COMMUNITY
MEMBERS.
SHE TOOK US IN, SPOKE WITH US
FOR LIKE A HALF HOUR, HAD COFFEE
AND STUFF.
REALLY INTRIGUING.
REALLY SEEMED COMMITTED AND LOVE
TALKING TO OUR YOUNG PEOPLE.
THE FOLLOWING YEAR, THIS YEAR,
WHEN WE'RE GOING ON THE ROUTE
THAT THE YOUTH CREATED, WE
SAW -- WE STOPPED AT HER HOUSE.
I THOUGHT IT WAS SO INTERESTING.
THERE'S A BEAUTIFUL TREE THAT
WAS IDENTIFIED.
ONE OF THE TREES THAT WE WATER.
IT'S BEAUTIFULLY PRUNED.
YOU CAN SEE IT'S WELL-TAKEN CARE
OF BECAUSE OF THE MULCH IS
GORGEOUS, HAS FLOWERS.
SHE HAS A FLOWER PLANTER IN
FRONT OF HER HOUSE.
SHE ADOPTED THAT TREE FOR SURE.
THAT'S HER TRUE.
THAT'S WHAT WE WANT OUR
COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO DO.
SO IT'S NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF ALL
OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS
THAT IT DOES PROVIDE AND, YOU
KNOW, WE HAVE -- IT CREATES AND
BUILDS COMMUNITY.
TO SEE OUR YOUNG PEOPLE, YOU
KNOW, DO THAT, ADVOCATE AND --
>> EVERY ONE IS TAKING PRIDE AND
MOTIVATED TO PLAY THAT ROLE.
FANTASTIC.
I JUST WANTED TO ASK, IS THERE
A -- I APPRECIATE YOUR
DEFINITION.
IT'S IMPORTANT.
WE BANDY AROUND TERMS.
I APPRECIATE YOUR WORDS,
IMPORTANT IN A CONVERSATION LIKE

THIS.
YOU KNOW, WE'RE VERY COMPETITIVE
CITY.

I'M CURIOUS THE INEQUITIES THAT
WE'RE TALKING ABOUT ARE
CHALLENGES THAT SYSTEMICALLY
PERSIST IN EVERY CITY.

I CAN ARGUE THAT MANY OF THOSE
ENTRENCHED INEQUITIES WERE
CREATED BY POLICY.

>> THERE'S EVIDENCE FOR THAT.

>> YES.

>> SO IT'S MUCH HARDER TO
DISRUPT AND UNDO GENERATIONS OF
THAT.

YOU KNOW, TALKING ABOUT IT AND
CERTAINLY ADVOCATING FOR, YOU
KNOW, MORE TREE CANOPY, SOME
LOW-HANGING TREE FROM -- FOR US
TO GET AT THE LARGER INEQUITIES.
THESE ARE THE STRUGGLES OF EVERY
CITY.

AS I SAID EARLIER, AS THE CHAIR
OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE,
I'M CERTAIN EVERY OTHER DESPAIR
WE'RE WORKING TO ADDRESS,
WHETHER IT'S HEALTH OR
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE OR
ECONOMIC JUSTICE, THAT THEY ARE
OVERLAID WITH THESE COMMUNITIES
THAT NEED TREES.

RIGHT?

SO I'M CURIOUS, IS THERE ANY
CITY THAT YOU THINK IS GETTING
THIS RIGHT?

>> A GREAT QUESTION.

I WISH I ACTUALLY HAD A REALLY
GOOD ANSWER TO THAT.

IN THE PROCESS OF DOING SOME
LOOKING AROUND THE WORLD, 32
DIFFERENT CITIES THAT WE HAVE
GOOD DATA ON.

>> OKAY.

GREAT.

>> I HESITATE TO GIVE A RANKING
OR -- BUT I ACTUALLY THINK THAT
BOSTON IS DOING PRETTY WELL.

I CAN POINT TO A LOT OF OTHER
CITIES THAT ARE WORSE OFF.

IN TERMS OF A MEASURABLE AMOUNT
OF INEQUITY IN TERMS OF INCOME
AND RACE WITH RESPECT TO TREE
CANOPY COVER.

WITH THINGS LIKE WE MEASURED

WITHIN THE CITY OF BOSTON PROPER
FOR DIVERSITY, THERE'S OTHER
CITIES'S WORKED IN, STARK
DIFFERENCES IN PEOPLE'S ACCESS
TO --

>> THAT'S ENCOURAGING.
SUPPORTING THE EARLIER COMMENTS
FROM COUNCILLOR O'MALLEY, AT
LEAST WE'RE NOT HAVING TO MAKE
THE CASE.

SEEMS THERE'S COLLECTIVE BUY-IN.
NOW WE JUST HAVE TO MAKE SURE
THAT WE'RE MAKING THE FINANCIAL
INVESTMENT AND RESOURCING THAT
BUY-IN TO MEET THOSE GREATER
GOALS.

>> YES.

I'D ADD, TO, THIS ISSUE OF
PROCESS IS SOMETHING THAT WE'RE
RATING AND IT'S AN IMPORTANT
DISCUSSION.

IT'S NOT SOMETHING THAT I CAN
COMMENT ON IN BOSTON.

BUT WE HAVE GOOD EVIDENCE THAT
THE TREES THAT WE SEE NOW, THEY
WERE PLANTED A LONG TIME AGO.
HISTORIC PROCESSES THAT LED TO
THE PATTERNS OF WHERE WE SEE
THINGS NOW.

PROCESSES THAT WERE EXCLUSIONARY
AND FOCUSING WEALTH AND POWER
INFLUENCE WHERE TREES WOULD BE.
THEN SOMETIMES IRONICALLY THE
NEIGHBORHOODS BECOME VACATED BY
THE WEALTHY AND POWERFUL PEOPLE
AND OCCUPIED BY MORE VULNERABLE
COMMUNITIES NOW.

SO FOR EXAMPLE, THERE'S SOME --
NOT JUST IN BOSTON BUT SOME
AFRICAN AMERICAN NEIGHBORHOODS
THAT HAVE HIGH TREE CANOPY COVER
BECAUSE OF THAT TURNOVER IN
POPULATION IN THE PAST.
SO A LEGACY OF PAST TREE
PLANTINGS.

THEY'RE GREAT TO CONTINUE
BUILDING ON AND BUILDING
CAPACITY IN THE COMMUNITY TO
MAINTAIN THE TREE COVER.

>> IF YOU DON'T MIND ME SAYING,
WHEN YOU TALK ABOUT THE
COMPETITIVENESS ABOUT OTHER
CITIES, ONE OF THE THINGS THAT
WE BROUGHT TO THE TABLE IS, YOU

KNOW, RANKING BOSTON AGAINST OTHER PARALLEL CITIES.

I THINK THAT IS CRITICAL TO BRING THAT TO THE TABLE AND FIGURING OUT WHERE BOSTON STANDS.

ONE OF THE THINGS THAT WE LOOKED AT IS LOOKING AT KIND OF THE TOP 30 CITIES BY POPULATION AND UNDERSTANDING NOT ONLY CANOPY COVERAGE BUT DO THEY HAVE A PLAN IN PLACE TO MOVE FORWARD.

REALLY IT WAS APPROXIMATELY 72% OF THESE CITIES HAVE AN URBAN FOREIGN MASTER PLAN OR MANAGEMENT PLAN.

I'M NOT TAKING A CLIMATE ACTION PLAN, OPEN SPACE PLAN, WHICH TALKS ABOUT GREAT INFRASTRUCTURE, IT'S SPECIFIC TO THE TREE CANOPY COVERAGE AND SAYING THIS IS WHAT WE'RE DOING ABOUT DISTRIBUTION AND THIS IS WHAT WE'RE DOING ABOUT ORDINANCES, DEVELOPMENT, MAINTENANCE, ALL OF THESE THINGS.

A CENTRALIZED PART OF INFORMATION.

SO IT SEEMS LIKE THERE'S A LOT OF UNANSWERED QUESTIONS, LOT OF INFORMATION ALL OVER THE PLACE. WE HAVE FOUND THAT A LOT WHEN WE COLLECT THE INFORMATION AND TRYING TO FORM A TREE REPOSITORY OF INFORMATION.

THERE'S A LOT OF UNANSWERED QUESTIONS.

TO MOVE FORWARD WE NEEDED A PLAN OR TASK FORCE TO GET THESE PEOPLE TOGETHER AND IF FIGURE OUT WHAT IS THE PRIORITY FOR BOSTON GOING FORWARD.

WHEN WE SAY 27%, THAT'S GREAT. WE NEED A PLAN IN PLACE TO EVEN MAINTAIN THAT.

>> CAN I ADD ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY FOR BOSTON BE COMPETITIVE? WE HAVE AN EXTREMELY AMBITIOUS CLIMATE ACTION PLAN.

ONE OF THE MOST TO CONTESTANT CARBON NEUTRALITY BY 2050.

THE ROLE OF VEGETATION AND VEGETATION LOSS WITH DEVELOPMENT

IS NOT BEEN ADEQUATELY LOOKED AT
IN THAT.

THE STUDY THAT WAS JUST DONE BY
UVM IS A QUALITY STUDY.

IT'S NOT THE FIRST THAT'S BEEN
DONE.

THERE'S -- WE JUST HEARD THERE'S
A LEGACY OF THIS.

IN 2006, THERE WAS A VOLUNTEER
INVENTORY OF THE ENTIRE CITY,
THE QUALITY OF THAT INVENTORY IN
TERMS OF THE MEASUREMENTS, IT
COULD HAVE BEEN BETTER.

THERE'S DEFINITELY INFORMATION
THERE.

WE DID A 10% SURVEY OF THAT TEN
YEARS LATER.

WHAT WE FOUND TEN YEARS LATER
IS THAT THE CITY WAS
APPROXIMATELY STABLE.

IT WAS THE RATE OF PLANTING TO
LOSSES WAS NEARLY NEUTRAL BUT
TRENDING DOWN.

THE OTHER THING IS THAT BOSTON
IN TERMS OF THE DEMOGRAPHICS OF
THE SIZE OF THE TREES THAT WE
CURRENTLY HAVE UNDER PUBLIC
OWNERSHIP IS LARGE AND OLD.

THAT'S WONDERFUL FOR THE CITY.
THAT'S PART OF WHY WE HAVE A
HIGH CANOPY COVER THAT WE HAVE.
WE HAVE A LOT OF LARGE OLD
TREES.

THE LARGE OLD TREES HAVE A LIFE
SPAN.

AND IF THEY DIE, WHICH IS WHEN
THEY DIE, WE'LL LOSE SOME OF
THAT CANOPY.

I'VE HAD VERY PRODUCTIVE
CONVERSATION WITH PARKS AND
ENVIRONMENT.

I AGREE IT SHOULD BE A QUESTION
OF CANOPY COVER AND TRYING TO
MAINTAIN IT MORE THAN SPECIFIC
INDIVIDUALS.

AN INVESTMENT IN THE MAINTENANCE
OF THE LARGE TREES AS WELL AS
PLANTING IS CRITICAL TO GET
THOSE ECOSYSTEM SERVICES.

MY GROUP DID A STUDY IN 2014
THAT WAS BASED ON 2006 DATA THAT
WAS A LYDAR RESOLUTION STUDY.
WE FOUND 25.5% CANOPY COVER.
THAT IS A SIGNIFICANT CHANGE.

I DO THINK THERE WAS A MISSED OPPORTUNITY IN NOT DIRECTLY COMPARING THE STUDIES.

I HAVE HAD SOME CONVERSATIONS WITH UVM AND HIS GROUP AND MY GROUP WILL BOTH INDEPENDENTLY LOOK AT THEM AND WHERE ARE WE GAINING CANOPY IN THE CITY AND LOSING CANOPY IN THE CITY. WE'VE HAD A GOOD BIT OF DATA TO LOOK AT THAT.

THE QUESTION THAT YOU ASKED ABOUT HOW MUCH CANOPY HAVE WE LOST TO DEVELOPMENT, I DON'T KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT NOW. BUT WE HAVE THE DATA WHERE IN A MONTH, ONE OF MY STUDENTS IS IN THE AUDIENCE BECAUSE HE'S CHOMPING AT THE BIT TO LOOK AT QUESTIONS LIKE THAT. WE CAN ANSWER THAT.

>> OKAY.

THANK YOU.

>> AND WITH CLIMATE ACTION WE ARE CURRENTLY ON A TRACK THAT WE WILL BE LOSING MORE CARBON FROM OUR CANOPY THAN WE ARE GAINING. BECAUSE OF THE DEMOGRAPHICS OF THE TREE, NOT BECAUSE OF THE MISMANAGEMENT.

IT'S A DEMOGRAPHICS ISSUE. WITH ADDITIONAL INVESTMENT PARTICULARLY TOWARDS MAINTENANCE, WHILE ALSO PLANTING, WE CAN POTENTIALLY CHANGE THAT TRAJECTORY. MAINTAINING VEGETATION UNDER DEVELOPMENT PRESSURES WILL ALSO DO A LOT TOWARDS THAT. THE CHANGE IN THE CONTRACTING THAT WE'VE DESCRIBED IS CRITICAL TO REDUCE THE MORTALITY RATE OF TREES WHEN THEY'RE BEING PLANTED.

BUT ALSO EXTEND IS THE LIFETIME OF THE TREES IN PLACE.

>> THANK YOU.

>> THANK YOU, COUNCILLOR PRESSLEY.

I APPRECIATE EVERY ONE'S TIME. WE'VE SPENT TWO HOURS NOW. THE PANEL IS DISMISSED. WE OBVIOUSLY INVITE YOU TO STAY IF YOU'D LIKE TO HEAR THE PUBLIC

TESTIMONY.

I'M GOING TO READ THROUGH A LIST
OF THOSE THAT HAVE SIGNED IN.
INDICATED THAT THEY WISH TO
TESTIFY.

I'M GOING TO READ THREE NAMES
HAT A TIME AND INNOVATE YOU TO
LINE UP TO THE LEFT OR TO THE
RIGHT.

WE'LL ASK FOR TWO TO THREE
MINUTES PER TESTIMONY.

FIRST PERSON THAT I HAVE IS
DOROTHY FARRELL OF JAMAICA
PLAINS AND MARGARET PICORNEY.
AS SOON AS YOU START SPEAKING --
>> IS THAT BETTER?
>> NOT QUITE.
>> TELL ME WHEN YOU CAN HEAR ME.
>> THANK YOU.

>> DOTTY FARRELL FROM JAMAICA
PLAINS.

WHEN TREES ARE PLANTED AFTER
DEVELOPMENT, IN DEVELOPMENT,
WHAT IS PLANTED ARE THESE -- I
CALL THEM FETUS TREES.

THEY'RE THIS BIG.

I'M GOING TO BE 70 YEARS OLD.
I'LL BE DEAD AND BURIED BEFORE
IT'S UP HERE.

MY QUESTION IS WITH DEVELOPERS,
CAN WE REGULATE THE SIZE OF
TREES THAT THEY PLANT?

I JUST HAD A TREE PLANTED IN MY
BACK YARD.

THE TREE COST ME \$400 FOR
MAHONEY'S TO PLANT, COST ME
ANOTHER \$400.

WE NEED MONEY TO PLANT BETTER
TREES.

PLEASE PLANT BIGGER TREES.

THANK YOU.

>> I APPRECIATE THAT, DOTTIE.
I AGREE WITH YOU.

WELL-SAID.