

DRAFT

December 19, 2012

To: The Honorable Mayor Lee Leffingwell and the Austin City Council Members.

CC. Marc Ott, City Manager; Burt Lumbreras, Assistant City Manager; Sara Hensley, PARD Director; Greg Guernsey, PDRD Director; Cora Wright, PARD Assistant Director; W. Pat Fuller, Division manager-Park Rangers/Forestry; Michael Embesi, City Arborist.

RE: Pilot Program for Prominent Urban Trees/Austin City Council Resolution 20120426-076

On September 19, 2012, the UFB submitted a proposed protocol for the identification, selection, and care process for at-risk prominent trees in the Austin community. Since that time meetings with representatives from Council member Tovo's office and Council Member Morrison's office, sponsors of the resolution, have brought to light aspects of the proposed process that need review, refinement, and simplification. Some of these are: additional review and simplification of the application process: vetting of funding sources: additional input from PARD and the city arborist on the application and implementation process.

Considering the importance of the pilot project and its positive impact on our urban forest, the UFB is requesting more time to address these issues and refine the process for preserving our prominent trees.