1	BY AUTHOR	<u>ITY</u>				
2	ORDINANCE NO	COUNCIL BILL NO.17-1017				
3	SERIES OF 2017	COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE:				
4 5		Land Use, Transportation & Infrastructure				
6	<u>A BILL</u>					
7	For an ordinance amending Articles II and IV of Chapter 57 (Vegetation) and					
8	Section 49-114 of the Revised Municipal Code, concerning trees within the City					
9	and County of Denver.	_				

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER:

Section 1. That Article II (City Forester) of Chapter 57 (Vegetation) shall be amended by deleting the language stricken and adding the language underlined as follows:

"ARTICLE II: CITY FORESTER

Sec. 57-16. Employment of city forester.

The manager of parks and recreation, for the purpose of promoting the health, safety, welfare, and quality of life of the residents of the city through the development of a sustainable community forest and, specifically, the preservation of trees, and the establishment of standards for removal, maintenance, and planting of trees, shall employ a person to be known as the city forester, whose powers and duties are specified in this article. The city forester may promulgate such rules and regulations as the city forester deems necessary to carry out the purposes of this article.

Sec. 57-17. Definitions.

Words and phrases used in this article shall have the following meaning ascribed to them:

Established tree shall mean any live, self-supporting woody perennial plant which has a trunk diameter of six (6) inches or more measured at a point four and one half (4½) feet above ground level and which normally obtains a height of at least ten (10) feet at maturity, usually with one main stem or trunk and many branches.

Maintenance shall mean any and all work performed on a trees including, but not limited to, planting, watering, pruning, removing, spraying, injecting, and stump grinding, treating for insects or diseases, protecting and enhancing soils, and preserving and protecting during construction.

Private property means all land and improvements, including fixtures and appurtenances, located within the property lines of a property.

Property owner shall mean any person or entity having a legal or equitable interest in real property and its fixtures and appurtenances, including the interests of a tenant or lessee.

Public place shall mean and include all real property owned by, leased to, or under the control of the City and County of Denver, specifically including all public right-of-way.

Public right-of-way shall mean the entire area between the curb, or street where no curb exists, and the property line of a property, and between the centerline of the alley and the property line of a property.

Responsible party shall mean the property owner or an entity or person who, acting as an agent for or in any other legal capacity on behalf of the owner, has authority over property subject to this article or is responsible for the maintenance or management of said property.

Tree shall mean any perennial woody plant, usually, but not necessarily, single stem and long-lived, with a height greater than overall spread.

Sec. 57-18. Responsibility for maintenance of trees on public right-of-way or other public place.

- (a) The manager of parks and recreation shall have the responsibility, through the city forester, to either maintain or order the maintenance of trees on the public right-of-way, and other public places.
- (b) The responsible party of property abutting the public right-of-way shall have the duty to maintain trees on the abutting portion of the public right-of-way.

Sec. 57-19. Planting, maintaining, replacing, and removing of trees on public property.

Through the development and permitting process, the city forester may require the planting of trees on the public right-of-way or other public places in the city. The city forester shall establish rules and regulations for the planting, replacing, and maintaining of trees on any public right-of-way or other public place in the city and it shall be unlawful for any person to plant trees upon any public right-of-way or other public place in the city except as prescribed in such rules and regulations. The rules and regulations for trees on the public right-of-way and other public places shall contain the following:

- (1) <u>Planting and Sspacing requirements for trees; on the public right-of-way and other public places;</u>
- (2) The types of trees which are prohibited <u>from being planted</u>; <u>on any public right-of-way</u> or other public place; and
 - (3) Tree diversity standards;

(4) Tree preservation specifications;

- 1 (3<u>5</u>) Requirements for maintenance, <u>replacement</u>, and removal of such trees upon the 2 public right-of-way or other public place; and
 - (46) Development <u>and plan review</u> fees to be charged by the city forester for review of developments on more than ten thousand (10,000) square feet of land area, <u>developments required</u> to have a site development plan review under the <u>Denver Zoning Code</u>, or other recurring plan reviews.

Sec. 57-20. Permit required.

- (a) It shall be unlawful to plant trees on, <u>perform trunk injections of pesticides into trees</u> <u>on, or remove trees from, the public right-of-way or other public place without a permit issued by the city forester.</u>
- (b) The city forester shall require mitigation, which may include compensation for the lost monetary value of the tree to the satisfaction of the city forester as determined through arboricultural industry standard tree and landscape appraisal methods, as a condition of permit approval for the removal of trees located on the public right-of-way or other public place except when the city forester has determined one of the following applies:
 - (1) The tree is dead or in poor health;
 - (2) The tree is structurally unsound or dangerous;
 - (3) The tree is infested with any destructive or communicable disease, or other pestilence which may be detrimental to or endanger the good health and well being of trees in the city;
 - (4) The tree is of an undesirable or nuisance species; or
 - (5) The tree has been or must be impacted beyond repair by an unavoidable event such as, but not limited to, emergency utility work not within the control of the applicable responsible party.
- (bc) It shall be unlawful to destroy or otherwise damage injure, damage, or remove an established trees in the front setback area of a zone lot in an R-0, R-1, R-2, or R-2-B zoning district during the course of residential demolition or construction, as governed by section 59-126, without a permit issued by the city forester as provided in section 57-25 for the following areas:-
- (1) In the front setback of a zone lot in an R-0, R-1, R-2, or R-2-B zone district under former Chapter 59 during the course of residential demolition or construction;

- (2) In the primary or side street setback of a zone lot containing a single unit dwelling, a two-unit dwelling or a multiple-unit dwelling on any zone lot in a residential zone district under the Denver Zoning Code during the course of residential demolition or construction;
- (ed) The city forester may, by rules and regulations, establish fees for the review and monitoring required by this section 57-20.

Sec. 57-21. Removal of dead or dangerous trees, limbs or shrubs.

The responsible party of any property shall remove any dead, dying or structurally unsound trees, limbs or shrubs from the premises of that responsible party or the public right of way abutting said property, when said dead, dying or structurally unsound trees or limbs are dangerous to life, limb, or property. When a dead, dying or structurally unsound tree, limb or shrub has the potential to affect adjacent property, and is dangerous to life, limb or property, the responsible party shall remove such tree or limb so as to avoid injury or damage to or on the adjacent property. The responsible party, shall remove any live, dead or dying tree, limb or shrub that is blocking a sight triangle or traffic sign causing a potential traffic hazard. The city forester may order the property owner responsible party to remove any such tree, limb or shrub.

Sec. 57-22. Infected or infested trees.

- (a) The city forester may inspect any tree or tree part, including logs or branches existing or growing upon any property within the city. The city forester shall conduct surveys to determine if any destructive or communicable disease, or other pestilence exists which may be detrimental to or endanger the good health and well being of trees in the city.
- (b) Upon discovery of any destructive or communicable disease, breeding place of the disease, or pestilence that endangers the good health and well being of trees, or is capable of causing an epidemic spread of communicable disease or insect infestation, the city forester shall at once notify in writing the responsible party, of the condition thereof and order such responsible party to eradicate, remove, or otherwise control such condition within a specified time.

Sec. 57-23. Obstruction of public property.

- (a) The responsible party of any property shall maintain and care for the trees upon said property and upon the public right-of-way abutting said property so that said the trees do not interfere with, obstruct, or obscure signs or public safety signals that or in any way endanger the safe public use of streets, alleys, sidewalks, or other public places.
- (b) Stumps are not permitted on the public right-of-way or other public place and must be removed to at least twelve inches below original grade.
- (bc) The responsible party shall maintain all trees to provide for clear and safe use of the public right-of-way in accordance with applicable department of public works rules and regulations.
- (d) When the city forester determines that a tree is in such a condition that it interferes with, obstructs, obscures signs or public safety signals, or in any way endangers the safe public use of streets, alleys, sidewalks, or other public places, the city forester shall issue an order directing the responsible party to prune, remove, or otherwise take such action as is necessary to eliminate the interference, obstruction, or dangerous condition of the tree.
- (e) In the case of an emergency, the city forester immediately may cause the necessary remedial action to prune, remove, or otherwise take any action necessary to eliminate the interference, obstruction, or dangerous condition.

Sec. 57-24. Injuring, damaging or removing trees on public property.

It shall be unlawful to injure, damage, destroy, or remove any tree situated upon the public right-of-way, or other public place within the city.

- (1) Any person who shall injure, damage (including by excessive pruning or topping), or destroy (including by failure to maintain) any tree situated upon the public right-of-way or other public place shall promptly notify the city forester of such occurrence and shall, within such reasonable time as specified by the city forester in an order, repair said damage to the satisfaction of the city forester.
- (2) If the city forester deems the tree to be beyond repair, or if the tree has been removed without a permit, the responsible party, shall compensate the City of Denver for the lost monetary value of the tree to the satisfaction of the city forester. Tree values shall be determined through arboricultural industry standard tree and landscape appraisal methods. in accordance with the most

recent edition of "The Guide for Plant Appraisal" published by the Council of Landscape Appraisers.
 Said cCompensation may include tree replacement.

(3) Should <u>If</u> any person causes removal of any tree upon the public right-of-way, or other public place, after being denied a permit to do so, the city forester shall cause a penalty of up to treble damages of the appraised value of said tree to be assessed against the responsible party.

Sec. 57-25. <u>Injuring, damaging or Rremovingal established</u> trees on certain residential properties.

- (a) As provided in sections 59-124, 59-139, and 57-20(b) 57-20(b), certain established trees shall not be removed, the owner of any lot in an R-0, R-1, R-2, or R-2-B zoning district shall preserve established trees located in the front setback area of the lot during the course of residential demolition or construction unless the owner responsible party obtains a permit for removal of the tree from the city forester. The city forester shall issue such a permit only upon a finding that:
 - (1) The tree is irreparably damaged, diseased, dying or dead;
 - (2) The tree poses a threat to public health and safety;
- 15 (3) The tree is of a type the city forester has determined by regulation to be undesirable or a nuisance species; or
 - (4) The responsible party demonstrates to the city forester that Ppreservation of the tree would leave the subject property with no reasonable access areas to the property greater than fifteen feet in height and greater than fifteen feet in width or would prevent the owner responsible party from developing or using the subject property in a manner otherwise permitted by applicable city laws and regulations.
 - (b) If an ewner a responsible party to whom the requirements of section 59-12457-20 applies injures, destroys or removes an established tree without obtaining a permit as required by this section, the city forester may order and enforce remediation of the violation as provided in sections 57-27 and 57-28, which order may include a requirement that the ewner responsible party replace any destroyed or removed tree, or pay mitigation for the full appraised value of the tree as determined by the city forester using arboricultural industry standard tree and landscape appraisal methods.

- 1 (c) In order to protect an established tree from damage or destruction and to enhance the
 2 tree's chance of survival after construction activities on the property are completed, a responsible
 3 party shall take and maintain throughout the course of demolition or construction the following
 4 measures:
 - (1) Erect and maintain temporary fencing surrounding the area beneath the tree in order to mitigate the chance of impact injuries to the tree during demolition or construction;
- 7 (2) Refrain from operating construction equipment or storing construction materials
 8 beneath the canopy of the tree or engaging in other activities that would cause the undue compaction
 9 of the soil in the tree's root zone;
- 10 (3) Refrain from any excavation beneath the canopy of the tree that would cause
 11 undue destruction of the tree's roots; and
 - (4) Provide tree maintenance, including watering, to maintain tree health.

Sec. 57-26. Unauthorized use of trees on public property.

It shall be unlawful for any person other than those authorized in writing by the manager of parks and recreation, employees of the manager of parks and recreation, officers of the city, employees of a public utility, or a person licensed to perform work on trees or their employees to climb, and/or attach any lumber, fabric, wire, nails, bolts, cables, ropes or any other material foreign to the natural growth of a tree to any tree located within the public right-of-way, or other public place.

Sec. 57-27. Unlawful to disobey order.

- (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to fail or refuse to obey an order of the manager of parks and recreation or the city forester issued under this article within the time specified in the order.
- (b) If the responsible party to whom an order has been issued fails or refuses to take remedial action, which may include compensation, in accordance with and within the time specified in an order, the city forester may cause the remedial action so ordered to be performed at the expense of the responsible party.

- (c) Upon completion of the remedial action ordered to be performed, <u>or completion of emergency remedial action taken without order,</u> the city forester shall mail a notice of the final cost of such to the responsible party.
- (d) Any person subject to an order of the city forester may appeal said the order to the manager of parks and recreation within fifteen (15) days of said the order. Any appeal to the manager must be in writing. The manager of parks and recreation or the manager's designee, which may include a hearing officer, shall hear said the appeal within thirty (30) days of the appeal. An appeal of the decision of the manager or his designee may be had in accordance with the Colorado Rules of Civil Procedure.
- (e) The manager of parks and recreation or the manager's designee may enter into an agreement with the owners, or responsible party, allowing the costs of remediation to be paid in payments over a period of time. If any person fails or refuses to abide by any such agreement, the manager of parks and recreation may file a lien as provided in section 57-28.
- (f) In addition to any other method of enforcement of this article, the city forester may, by rules and regulations, utilize administrative citations pursuant to article XVII (Administrative citations), chapter 2, Denver Revised Municipal Code, to enforce this article.
- any tree situated upon the public right-of-way or other public place within the city, or established trees in certain residential districts without a permit for their removal, the city forester may order any work stopped until authorized by the city forester to proceed. The responsible party, once notified of the order, shall not allow any further work upon the public right-of-way or other public place until so authorized. Any such order shall be by written notice served on the responsible party of the property abutting the public right-of-way or other public place upon which work was or is being performed or where the condition exists, or any person engaged in the work, causing the work to be performed or having a permit to perform the work. Service of any order may be made by personal service or by certified mail, return receipt requested, and service shall be deemed complete upon delivery.

Sec. 57-28. City's lien.

In the event If the property owner responsible party fails to pay the costs of remediation or enter into an agreement as provided in 57-27(e) within fifteen (15) days of the notice sent under

section 57-27, the costs of remediation shall constitute a lien against the real property where the remediation took place or, if the remediation was on public right-of-way, the abutting property. The department shall thereafter pay the cost and expense of the remediation from any appropriation made available for that purpose, and shall certify a statement of payment to the manager of revenue, who shall assess and charge the same against the property involved and collect the same, together with interest at the rate established by law for delinquent real estate property taxes.

- (1) The lien created herby shall be superior and prior to other liens, regardless of date, except liens for general and specific taxes.
- (2) For the purpose of this article, cost of remediation shall include the administrative cost incurred therewith."
- **Section 2.** That Chapter 57-61, "Name and address to be displayed on vehicles and equipment", of the Revised Municipal Code is hereby amended by adding the language underlined and deleting the language stricken as follows:
- "Section 57-61. Name and address to be displayed on vehicles and equipment.

All automobiles, trucks, trailers or other vehicles operated by any licensee for the transportation of the equipment used by the licensee in such its business, and all self-propelled, drawn or towed equipment used by any licensee in such its business, shall have the name and address telephone number of such the licensee or the business of the licensee displayed on both sides thereof in plain and legible figures and letters not less than three two (3 2) inches in height, which shall be kept in such a condition as to that permits the same to be readily distinguished and read at a distance of at least sixty (60) feet, and it shall be unlawful and a ground of revocation of the license for any licensee to operate any such vehicle or cause any such equipment to be operated or drawn or towed upon the street, alleys or other public ways or places within the city unless or without the same name and telephone number being so displayed thereon."

BALANCE OF PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

Section 3. That Chapter 57-71, "Required", of the Revised Municipal Code is hereby amended by deleting the language stricken as follows:

"Section 57-71. Required.

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- It shall be unlawful for any person to engage in the business of, or receive compensation for, planting, cutting, trimming, pruning, or removing trees-shrubs or vines without first procuring a license therefor from the director of excise and licenses."
- 7 **Section 4.** That Chapter 57-74, "Classes of licenses", of the Revised Municipal Code is hereby amended by adding the language underlined and deleting the language stricken as follows:
 - "Section 57-74. Classes of licenses.
- Ornamental plant management tree license shall authorize the person holding the license to plant, cut, trim, prune, and remove small vegetation trees where the licensee is not required to leave the ground except by use of a step ladder not exceeding the height of twelve (12) feet and then only
- 13 for the purpose of shearing evergreens.
- 14 (b) General tree license shall authorize the licensee to plant, cut, trim, prune, and remove vegetation trees of any size.
- 16 (c) Sawyer tree license shall authorize the person holding the license to cut, trim, prune, and
 17 remove trees upon public places, except public right of way, for the purposes of controlling invasive
 18 tree species, fire mitigation, and improving forest health."
 - **Section 5.** That Chapter 57-75, "Requirements", of the Revised Municipal Code is hereby amended by adding the language underlined as follows:

21 "Section 57-75. Requirements.

- The applicants for licenses under section 57-74(a) and (b), which may include an employee of the applicant, shall be tested by the city forester to determine their competence to perform the type of work which the respective license authorizes."
 - **Section 6.** That Chapter 57-77, "Insurance requirements", of the Revised Municipal Code is hereby amended by adding the language underlined and deleting the language stricken as follows:

1 "Section 57-77. Insurance requirements.

- 2 (a)—No license shall be issued under this division until the applicant shall file with the city forester
- 3 a satisfactory certificate of public liability insurance evidencing the following required coverages:
- 4 (1) Commercial General Liability insurance with minimum limits of \$500,000 for general
- 5 <u>license contractors, \$100,000 ornamental license contractors. The city shall be named as an</u>
- 6 <u>additional insured;</u>
- 7 (2) Workers' Compensation and Employers' Liability insurance. Applicants shall maintain
- 8 coverage as required by statute; and
- 9 Auto Liability insurance with minimum limits of \$150,000 combined single limit. policy 10 covering all operations of the applicant and the operation of all vehicles operated in the business in 11 the sum of at least one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000.00) for each person injured and five 12 hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000.00) in the case of the injury of two (2) or more persons in a 13 single occurrence, and the sum of not less than five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000.00) for 14 property damage for a general tree license and one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000.00) for 15 property damage for an ornamental tree license. Such policy may be written to allow the first five 16 hundred dollars (\$500.00) of liability for damages to property and persons to be a deductible. The
- 18 For all coverages, the city forester shall be notified of any proposed cancellation at least within thirty

policy shall contain a noncancellability endorsement which requires that

- 19 (30) days, ten (10) days if due to non-payment of premium. prior to the cancellation being effective.
- 20 At any time that the city forester receives notice of proposed cancellation of insurance, the city
- 21 forester shall immediately notify the holder of the license that, unless the holder of the license can
- 22 satisfy the city forester that an appropriate insurance policy as required by this section has been
- 23 obtained to replace the policy being cancelled Upon notification of cancellation, the license is
- 24 cancelled and the holder of the license shall do no further work until such time as adequate insurance
- 25 is provided.

- 26 (b) No license shall be issued until such time as the applicant for the license files with the city
- 27 forester a certificate of workmen's compensation insurance satisfying the statutes of the State of
- 28 Colorado and cannot be cancelled without thirty (30) days' notice to the city forester. At any time that
- 29 the city forester receives notice of proposed cancellation of insurance, the city forester shall

- immediately notify the holder of the license that, unless the holder of the license can satisfy the city
 forester that an appropriate insurance policy as required by this section has been obtained to replace
 the policy being cancelled, the license is cancelled and the holder of the license shall do no further
 work until such time as adequate insurance is provided."
 - **Section 7.** That Chapter 57-79, "Licensee responsibility", of the Revised Municipal Code is hereby amended by adding the language underlined and deleting the language stricken as follows:

"Section 57-79. Licensee Responsibility.

- (a) Persons <u>or entities</u> holding licenses under this division shall be responsible for performing all work in conformity with the rules and regulations of the city forester and any and all applicable statutes of the State of Colorado and ordinances of the City and County of Denver.
- 11 (b) All holders of licenses shall in addition:
 - (1) Provide safety measures and equipment to protect workmen workers and the public.
 - (2) Employ qualified persons, appropriately certified or licensed where required by the statutes of the State of Colorado.
 - (3) Obey all orders or notices issued under the authority of the city forester.
 - (4) Provide all vehicles used in the operation of the business with identification and letters a minimum of two (2) inches in height and of a color contrasting with the background. The identification shall include the following information:
 - a. Name of company;
 - b. Business address;
 - c. Business telephone number.
 - (5) Maintain with the city forester a current mailing address. Any order, notice, summons and complaint or other departmental communication, whether delivered by personal service or by certified, registered or first class mail sent to that address, shall constitute service. For entities holding licenses, the entity shall also maintain with the city forester the name of a

representative of the entity, and any order, notice, summons and complaint or other departmental communication, whether delivered by personal service or by certified, registered or first class mail sent to this representative, shall constitute service on the entity holding the license.

- (6) Maintain workers' compensation insurance or, if such insurance is not required by state law and is not carried voluntarily, notify in writing the person contracting for the service that no workers' compensation insurance is in effect.
- 8 (7) Inform the city forester when any employee who performed the testing requirements in
 9 Section 57-75 above on behalf of an entity holding a license, is no longer employed by that
 10 licensed entity."
 - **Section 8.** That Chapter 49-114, "Extension beyond prescribed limits or conversion to private use of sidewalks", of the Revised Municipal Code is hereby amended by adding the language underlined and deleting the language stricken as follows:
 - "Section 49-114. Extension beyond prescribed limits or conversion to private use of sidewalks.
 - (a) On all streets where courts or open spaces are permitted for the planting of trees or grass plots, the same shall be kept level and to grade and free of any obstruction, fence, railing, bench, hedge or bush, unless objects are used to define tree planting spaces, water quality or green infrastructure facilities, bike rack areas, or other acceptable amenities to ensure safe use of the public right-of-way.
 - (b) When trees are located within a concrete sidewalk area, an open space eighteen (18) inches wide shall be left around each tree. This open all planting spaces shall be designed in a manner covered by an iron grate flush with the adjacent sidewalk as deemed necessary for the public safety by the manager of public works in consultation with the city forester.
 - (c) No person shall construct or reconstruct a loading platform upon city property without first obtaining a permit to do so from the manager of public works."

1	COMMITTEE APPROVAL DATE: September 26, 2017 by consent						
2	MAYOR-COUNCIL DATE: October 3, 2017	October 16, 2017					
3	PASSED BY THE COUNCIL:						
4		PRE	SIDENT PI	RO-TEM			
5	APPROVED:		MAYOR				
6 7 8	ATTEST:	EX-					
9	NOTICE PUBLISHED IN THE DAILY JOURN	AL:		;			
10	PREPARED BY: Adam C. Hernandez, Assist	tant City Attori	ney	DATE:	October 5, 2017		
11 12 13 14	Pursuant to section 13-12, D.R.M.C., this proposed ordinance has been reviewed by the office of the City Attorney. We find no irregularity as to form, and have no legal objection to the proposed ordinance. The proposed ordinance is not submitted to the City Council for approval pursuant to §3.2.6 of the Charter.						
16	Kristin M. Bronson, City Attorney						
17 18	BY: Kurter & Could	Attorney	DATE:	Oct 5, 2017	7		