

2/19/22 Email Re Trees (gently edited by CityPAC)

Voters love trees

Inbox

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Thank you for weighing in, [REDACTED], and for all you have done as a citizen to stand up for Sarasota's natural assets and for citizens' rights to enjoy them.

I can support the adoption of the new tree ordinance, as I do, and still encourage the adoption of most of the changes Mr. Lobeck recommends, for the good environmental, community, and legal reasons he has detailed below.

What struck me most about what he said is that he anticipates a commissioner may wish to propose removing tree protections (except for Grand Trees) entirely from residential properties of less than 5 acres as the county ordinance does. The county ordinance spans 900 square miles, and is designed to facilitate clear cutting for residential development so that "master planned" suburban sprawl dwellings can be rapidly erected to make more money for a handful of large developers.

That dynamic of prioritizing developer pocketbooks over people and environment, is, I believe, one of the main motivations for your announced run for county commission (congratulations!). Trees are popular with residents, and voters are a subset of residents, so it is difficult to see why any politician running for office in these parts would want to champion making it easier to kill the shared life-preserving natural resource that is trees - particularly in dense, hot, and sunny urban landscape.

Instead, I would think a smart politician would stop obsessing over the fines assessed against a by a few thoughtless homeowners who clearcut healthy trees, and instead embrace the idea of implementing a program to start getting new roots in the ground to replace lost canopy...like the leaders of my former hometown, NYC are:

https://www.nytimes.com/2022/02/12/nyregion/trees-parks-nyc.html?unlocked_article_code=AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAACEIPuomT1JKd6J17Vw1cRCfTTMQmqxCdw_Plxf tm3iWka3DPDm8YiOIEGYWP-kDLlrZ5atYomiySxtadbk-T7py0upbdQRLejWfn6Glyt4DMjln7sW6RH831JbAGrs0_DSzMTfhbbgnzeb64hnZbX25UaGPzXMndg0z85Z hfFGp2GcahfuQSp4D0dJ83fwiA4krBmtTIXnX4IS7TkI2K96EbRrD6wlpW-8_WDnbn9aU6rxoYxwFQBudDys5uTBgnYsabNAHP6_LAoiet79idgTCm9pLISrAf4hVuL2-p4tURp2Fo1ErVH5-So&smid=url-share