



The Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations, Inc.

P.O. Box 203, Mount Vernon, VA 22121-9998

<http://www.mvcca.org>

Supervisor Gerald Hyland
2511 Parkers Lane
Alexandria, VA 22306

Dear Supervisor Hyland,

July 25, 2009

Reference: MVCCA COAF/ER 2009-02J: Tree Workers License Resolution

I am forwarding to you the MVCCA resolution regarding the requirement to license Tree Workers. This resolution was overwhelmingly supported by the MVCCA General Membership.

We are seeking your support to obtain the appropriate and required state enabling legislation regarding this new license.

In addition to ensuring that all workers in the hazardous tree trimming business are properly trained, that citizens are protected from flyby night operators with a chain saws, that our tree resources are handled with care this licensing fee will bring additional revenue to the States coffers.

Thank you for your assistance.



Katherine Ward
Co-Chair
MVCCA

Enclosed: MVCCA COAF/ER 2009-02J: Tree Workers License Resolution

MVCCA (COAF/ER-2009-02 J) Resolution – Tree Workers Certification and Licensing

Whereas, trees are environmentally friendly because they improve air quality by removing dust and other air pollutants from the air we breathe, and improve water quality by slowing and absorbing storm-water runoff and holding the soil thereby preventing erosion of the soil; and

Whereas, Fairfax County has committed to protect its tree cover, and to restore it to 45% of the land area of Fairfax County by 2037; and

Whereas, there are no licensing requirements for tree workers in the Commonwealth of Virginia; and

Whereas, appropriate care for trees requires expert knowledge of individual trees and of best practices for diagnosing and remedying problems which may make them unsafe or unhealthy; and

Whereas, unlicensed tree workers are permanently destroying trees and making them more hazardous in the Mt. Vernon District by poor practices, such as topping, flush-cut pruning, and unnecessary removal of trees, and proscribed practices, such as removal of healthy trees from Resource Protection Areas; and

Whereas, some unlicensed tree workers (“woodchucks”) prey upon residents by persuading them to do unnecessary tree work and overcharging for it; and

Whereas, unlicensed tree workers are less likely to adhere to Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) safety requirements and therefore more likely to suffer injuries or death; and

Whereas, homeowners should be educated on tree care and maintenance and at least one person at the site trimming the tree(s) should be certified as a tree care specialist to reduce the frequency of poor pruning practices.

Therefore Be It Resolved that the Mt. Vernon Council of Citizens Associations (MVCCA) support the Consumer Affairs Committee’s requested budget and/or expenditures needed to prepare and distribute education packets for its member associations on proper tree care at the proper time of the year (including information about removal of trees in Resource Protection Areas); and

Be It Further Resolved that the MVCCA urges the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to determine the existence of enabling legislation to license and/or certify tree workers, and, if available, require such licensing and/or certification for tree workers; and

Be it Finally Resolved, if enabling legislation is required but unavailable, the MVCCA urges our Virginia elected officials to adopt legislation to license and/or certify tree workers in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

APPROVED BY THE MVCCA GENERAL COUNCIL ON JULY 22, 2009