

COMMISSION ON DISABILITY ISSUES

City of Ann Arbor

Commission on Disability Issues Recommendation to City Council Concerning Council Action Enactment R-20-342 Resolution to Refer Ordinance Chapter 40 to Environmental Commission

January 27, 2021

The Ann Arbor Commission on Disability Issues discussed this Resolution and our recommendation on January 20, 2021 recognizes that City Council had proposed referring this issue to the Environmental Commission as well as The Commission on Disability Issues for their review on September 8, 2020.

The Ann Arbor Commission on Disability Issues appreciate the referral and opportunity to review the proposal to amend Sections 3:16 and 3:17 of Chapter 40 (Trees and Other Vegetation) of Title III of the Code of the City of Ann Arbor with attention to possible impacts on the disability community.

At this time, we do not anticipate any.

Disability Commissioner Matthew Solomon reviewed this resolution and reported the following to the full commission for review:

“The proposal concerning Section 3:16 would involve raising from 12 inches to 18 inches the maximum height of vegetation “[o]n private property, outside of a cultivated bed, or planned natural landscape, vegetable or flower garden, pollinator garden, or rain garden, on private property,” but still maintains, “Trees, bushes and other woody plants on private property shall be maintained so that no part thereof is obstructing or blocking the sidewalk or the street, and must be trimmed in order to allow 8 feet of clearance for streets and sidewalks. Cultivated herbaceous plants on private property shall not intrude into the right of way in such a manner as to create a hazard for pedestrians and others using the sidewalk.

The proposal concerning Section 3:17 would involve eliminating the phrase “lawn extension,” substituting the phrase “private property” in one case.”

We support his review and our full commission recommendation to suggest that the proposal concerning Section 3:17 eliminate the phrase "lawn extension," substituting the phrase "private property", upon his and our full review and discussion this does not appear consequential for the disability community.

Sincerely Yours,

Zachary Damon

Chairman-The Ann Arbor Commission on Disability Issues