

Subject: Tree Speech 2/2/26 smoking gun, tree changes imperative

From: Chuck Ream <moksha@umich.edu>

Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2026 3:19 PM

To: City Council <CityCouncil@a2gov.org>; Planning <Planning@a2gov.org>; Ryan J Stanton <RStanton@mlive.com>; Mitchell, Rita; John Godfrey; Jeff Holtzman; Lauren Sargent; Anne Bannister; William Sverdlik

Subject: Fwd: Tree Speech, 2/2/26 smoking gun, tree changes imperative

After getting this info, council and the planning commission will, if they love Ann Arbor, give us a modern tree ordinance, paired with the CLUP. HERE IS THE EVIDENCE that the CLUP, as it stands, will degrade Ann Arbor

From: Chuck Ream

Date: Sat, Jan 31, 2026 at 3:04 PM

Subject: Tree Speech, 2/2/26 smoking gun, tree changes imperative

To: Chuck Ream

Tree speech, city Council 2/2/26, successful cities, tree loss cities

Greetings;

Page 27 of the CLUP says that "rather than" think about the beauty and trees and character of Ann Arbor we should think about your special "values" (which can't be achieved by this plan).

On page 136 comes the kicker "zoning will be done to **remove barriers** to housing". That's all. The CLUP doesn't want balance between natural futures and housing, it smashes "balance" to bits. Trees are left naked before the bulldozers, with no new protection. Zoning now has one goal.

We can grow Ann Arbor without cutting it down.

I found proof that major redevelopment and density, without new tree safeguards, will result in the degradation of our tree cover.

With your "build at any cost" approach, you create **destructive** up zoning, you have **erase and replace** development, you will get **unprotected clearcut development** as your default site plan.

Your plan puts our trees at great risk because:

- * trees on private property are weakly protected, or not at all
- * mitigation of tree damage is cheaper than preservation, and
- * tree review is not structurally integrated into development approval. (And it needs to come first.)

Modern tree ordinances require protection or mitigation for damage to any tree bigger than 6 inches thick, and adequate replacement fees.

Cities that coordinate tree protection with major upzoning, like Cambridge, Portland, Evanston and Atlanta have maintained or increased their tree canopy.

Cities that upzone radically *without* more tree protection *lose tree canopy*, like in Denver, Austin, Seattle, and Nashville.

Denver tried to tighten up its tree policy too late, large parts of the city had already been redeveloped and big trees were gone.

Density doesn't kill trees! A lack of good zoning, planning and building regulations kills trees! We can have both density and trees!

You need to put a modern tree policy in the CLUP or put it in a separate ordinance real soon, or big trees will fall. Ann Arbor voters will turn against this *unprotected clearcut policy*.

We can't let it happen! Fight for the trees!

Vote August 4 for an independent candidate! Run for office!

Now we know the cost in trees of slash and burn planning like the CLUP.

Let's protect trees right now and we can go forward together!Vote for me in Ward 3.

Run for office! See chuckreamsavetreecity.com