

City of Salem: Community Development Planning Division
Response to 23-103726-PLN:
Tree and Vegetation Removal Permit Application for
Removal of Tree Under Code Section 808.040(d)(1) – Hazardous Tree

Dear Abigail Pederson,

As part of our ongoing project at 2605 Laurel Av NE, Salem OR 97301 we have identified a significant tree that presents a clear and obvious safety hazard due to its proximity to existing power lines. In accordance with municipal code section 808.040(d)(1) – Hazardous Tree, we present this application for the tree's removal, substantiated by the following points:

Hazardous Proximity to Power Infrastructure Identification:

The tree in question is in very close proximity to power lines and a street power pole, posing a potential risk to public safety and utility infrastructure. Currently, the tree is adjacent to overhead powerlines. In the event of a tree limb falling or the tree toppling, it could result in power outages, fire hazards, or even physical harm to passersby and residents of the community. Tree growth would only increase this risk and proposing underground powerlines is not for consideration.

Our Arborist has identified this tree as a "high threat" to infrastructure as well as residents and pedestrians.

Residual Risk of Pruning or Treatment:

The Arborist notes this treatment will maintain "some" residual risk opposed to removing the tree all together relinquishing any hazards posed by the tree.

Pruning of the tree clearly is a non-viable solution as that the scale of pruning required to mitigate the risk would severely compromise the health and structural integrity of the tree. Moreover, such extensive pruning would not guarantee the elimination of the hazard, given the tree's continued growth and the proximity to power lines.

Building Design and Access Changes: Development of the current design has undergone several changes including conditional approvals and recommendations from City of Salem: Planning. The tree in question, is conflicting with our proposed driveway access which utilizes the Unamed Alley. Proposed access of local road, Hickory St NE was denied and the City promoted an alternative vehicular site access from the alley as it met the purpose of SRC Chapter 804, *to establish development standards for safe and efficient access to public streets* access to public streets.

Compliance with Code Section 808.040(d)(1): The situation meets the criteria set out in the code, which states that tree removal is necessary when the condition or location of the tree presents a hazard that cannot be reasonably alleviated by treatment or pruning. Arboist has

confirmed, please see "Note, Explanations, descriptions" on Page 2 of attached Arborist report, *TRAQ-2605 Laurel Ave NE*.

Mitigation Measures: We are committed to mitigating the environmental impact of this removal. Our plan includes planting new street trees per City of Salem standards, located in safer location, thereby contributing positively to the local community and neighborhood ecosystem and urban tree canopy.

In conclusion, the removal of this tree is a necessary step to ensure public safety and protect surrounding infrastructure, in alignment with the municipal code and the attached Arborist report, *TRAQ-2605 Laurel Ave NE*. Substantiating the tree's hazardous proximity to power lines and the impracticality of other mitigating measures.

Given it's hazardous proximity from power utilities We respectfully request approval for the Tree's removal and are prepared to take all necessary actions to comply with replacement and mitigation requirements set forth by your department.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best Regards,
Scott McLeod, Architect FL OR WA
Project Architect



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