

## Austin Ross

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**From:** Ron Jackson <ronj@lenityarchitecture.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 4, 2024 3:09 PM  
**To:** Austin Ross  
**Cc:** Lee Gwyn  
**Subject:** 2605 Laurel Ave. - Salem Plan Review - 24 103723 00 DW  
**Attachments:** Tree Variance.pdf

Dear Mr. Ross,

I'm writing to discuss the development project at 2605 Laurel Ave NE, Salem, which is bordered by Hickory Street on the south and Laurel Avenue on the east. During our permitting phase, we identified a significant tree that presents a unique challenge, creating unreasonable hardships that we believe can only be resolved by obtaining a tree variance under Municipal Code Section 808.045(d) – Hardship.

The project requires us to construct or replace the sidewalk along the full length of both street frontages, ensuring no breaks in sidewalk continuity. The existing sidewalk and curb cut along Laurel Avenue have been compromised by extensive tree root growth. As outlined in the attached site plan, the required sidewalk extensions would directly impact the tree in question. A certified arborist has evaluated the situation and determined that, due to the tree's proximity to the road and the necessary sidewalk construction, completing these improvements would require significant root cutting, severely damaging the tree's critical root zone.

Given these circumstances, we believe that removing the tree is the least disruptive solution to allow the required public works improvements to proceed. We respectfully request approval for its removal and are fully committed to meeting all replacement and mitigation requirements as specified by your department.

Thank you for considering our request. Please feel free to reach out if you need any additional information or would like to discuss this matter further.

Ron Jackson

Project Lead / Senior Permit Specialist



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