

A Local Law to Regulate the Removal of Street Trees in the City of Hudson

Section 1. Title

This Local Law shall be known as the “Street Tree Preservation Law.”

Section 2. Legislative Intent

The Common Council of the City of Hudson hereby finds that street trees are a vital public resource, contributing to the health, safety, and welfare of the community. The City has made substantial investments in the planting and maintenance of street trees. This law is intended to preserve this investment by regulating the removal of street trees and ensuring that removals are offset through replacement or financial contribution.

Section 3. Definitions

For the purpose of this local law:

- **Street Tree** shall mean any tree located in the public right-of-way, including but not limited to trees planted in sidewalks, tree lawns, or other public easements adjacent to public streets.
- **DPW** shall refer to the Department of Public Works of the City of Hudson.
- **Hudson Street Tree Guide** shall mean a document listing native tree species or tree species suitable for the urban environment published on the City of Hudson website.
- **Like-for-like replacement** shall mean the planting of a replacement tree of a species from the Hudson Street Tree Guide and size approved by the DPW, in a location approved by the DPW.

Section 4. Permit Requirement for Tree Removal

A. No person shall remove, damage, or cause the removal of any street tree without first obtaining a permit from the Department of Public Works.

B. The permit application shall include the reason for removal, location of the tree, and any proposed replacement plan.

Section 5. Removal Without Replacement

If the permit is granted but the applicant does not provide a like-for-like replacement, the applicant shall be required to pay a **tree replacement fee of \$300** per removed tree.

A. This fee shall be deposited into a dedicated **Street Tree Fund**, which shall be used exclusively for the planting, maintenance, and care of street trees.

B. Payment of the fee shall be a condition of the permit's approval.

Section 6. Emergency Removal Exemption

In the event a street tree presents an immediate danger to public safety due to storm damage, disease, or structural failure, the property owner may take immediate action to mitigate the hazard.

A. The DPW must be notified within 48 hours of such removal.

B. The Director of DPW shall determine whether the replacement fee applies in such cases.

Section 7. Enforcement and Penalties

A. Any person who removes a street tree without a permit shall be subject to a civil fine of up to \$500 per tree removed, in addition to the required \$300 replacement fee.

B. The DPW may issue stop-work orders or pursue other remedies in accordance with applicable law.