

RESOLUTION NO. 531 - 2020

A RESOLUTION CONDEMNING THE TREE REMOVAL PRACTICES OF KENTUCKY UTILITIES; DEMANDING RECONSIDERATION THEREOF; REQUESTING KENTUCKY UTILITIES' PRACTICES BE PROPORTIONATE TO THE ACTUAL THREAT POSED UPON THE COMPANY'S ELECTRIC SERVICE; REQUESTING THAT KENTUCKY UTILITIES ENTER INTO MEANINGFUL, COLLABORATIVE, AND COOPERATIVE DIALOGUE WITH THE LEXINGTON-FAYETTE URBAN COUNTY GOVERNMENT AND OTHER FINANCIALLY-INVESTED CIVIL ORGANIZATIONS; AND DIRECTING THE COUNCIL CLERK TO MAIL THIS RESOLUTION TO DAVID FREIBERT, VICE PRESIDENT OF KENTUCKY UTILITIES; TERRY SNOW, SENIOR TRANSMISSION LINE ENGINEER; AND KENT CHANDLER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE KENTUCKY PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION.

WHEREAS, Urban forests positively contribute to a locality's economy by making urban retail more appealing; increasing consumer's willingness to pay higher prices for retail goods; raising home values; offsetting urban infrastructure costs, and improving residents' health and safety (Wolf, K.L. "City Trees and Consumer Response in Retail Business Districts." *Handbook of Research on Retailer-Consumer Relationship Development*, edited by F. Musso and E. Druica, IGI Global, 2014, pp. 152–172; Wolf, Kathleen L. "Trees in the Small City Retail Business District: Comparing Resident and Visitor Perceptions." *Journal of Forestry*, vol. 103, no. 8, Dec. 2005, pp. 390–395; Martin, Clay W. et al. "The Contributory Value of Trees to Residential Property in the Austin, Texas Metropolitan Area." (2006); Biron, Carey L. "Money Trees: U.S. cities find new ways of valuing urban forests, Reuters (Feb. 20, 2020); Wolf, Kathleen L et al. "Urban Trees and Human Health: A Scoping Review." *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, vol. 17, no. 12. 18 Jun. 2020);

WHEREAS, Kentucky Utilities has recently started clear-cutting trees under certain utility lines throughout Lexington-Fayette County where existing trees do not pose an immediate threat to Kentucky Utilities' electric service;

WHEREAS, less drastic tree trimming practices could be utilized that would protect Kentucky Utilities' electric service while also protecting Lexington-Fayette County's urban forest and the public's benefit thereof;

WHEREAS, Kentucky Utilities does not provide any notification to, or consultation with, the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government, prior to clear-cutting trees within the Lexington-Fayette Urban County right-of-way; and

WHEREAS, Kentucky Utilities' offer to provide \$1500 per affected property does not adequately compensate the public for the damage, economic or otherwise, caused by the company's clear-cutting of trees posing no immediate threat to electric service.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE LEXINGTON-FAYETTE URBAN COUNTY GOVERNMENT:

Section 1 – That the preamble to this Resolution is incorporated herein as if set out in full.

Section 2 – That the Council of the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government roundly condemns Kentucky Utilities' extreme and unilateral tree removal practice of clear-cutting trees within Lexington-Fayette County's urban forest and the right-of-way that pose no immediate threat to electric service, resulting in economic damage to Lexington-Fayette County and its taxpayers; demands reconsideration of this new practice; requests Kentucky Utilities' practices be proportionate to the actual threat posed upon the company's electric service; and requests that Kentucky Utilities enter into meaningful, collaborative, and cooperative dialogue with the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government and other financially-invested civil organizations to discuss the company's safety considerations as well as landowners' aesthetic and economic concerns.

Section 3 – That the Council Clerk of the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government be and hereby is directed to mail this Resolution to David Freibert, Vice President of Kentucky Utilities; Terry Snow, Senior Transmission Line Engineer; and Kent Chandler, Executive Director Of The Kentucky Public Service Commission.

Section 4 – That this Resolution shall become effective on the date of its passage.

PASSED URBAN COUNTY COUNCIL: November 12, 2020

Rinda Gorton

MAYOR

ATTEST:

Allan

CLERK OF URBAN COUNTY COUNCIL
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