

STAFF REPORT ON PETITION FOR ZONING ORDINANCE TEXT AMENDMENT

**ZOTA 2017-4 & SRA 2017-2: DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES –
COMMERCIAL LANDSCAPE EXAMINER**

INITIATED BY: Urban County Planning Commission

PROPOSED TEXT: See Attached text

STAFF REVIEW:

The Urban County Planning Commission recently initiated a text amendment to several Articles of the Zoning Ordinance and to Article 6-10 of the Land Subdivision Regulations. This amendment is related to the responsibility for staffing changes within the Urban County Government. The Division of Building Inspection no longer monitors or inspects landscape materials either at the time of planting (typically just prior to, or when a property is occupied) nor over time. These responsibilities were transferred to staff members in the Division of Environmental Services in 2016.

Although there are several sections of the Zoning Ordinance’s text that are now proposed for change, this text amendment involves only three changes:

- 1) to include the Division of Environmental Services in the list of possible enforcement agencies (Article 5-7 of the Zoning Ordinance);
- 2) to replace references to the “Division of Building Inspection” with the “Division of Environmental Services” (Articles 8-1, 18-3 through 18-7, and 26-8 of the Zoning Ordinance), and
- 3) to replace the terms “Building Inspector” with “Landscape Examiner” (Article 6-10 of the Subdivision Regulations).

From the staff’s perspective, these changes are long overdue, considering the last “landscape examiner” retired from the local government nearly a decade ago. The staff is confident that the Division of Environmental Services will enforce these existing Ordinance provisions, to the betterment of our community.

The Staff Recommends: Approval, for the following reasons:

1. The proposed text amendments will update the Zoning Ordinance and Land Subdivision Regulations to accurately reflect organizational changes made within the Urban County Government.
2. These changes will ensure more experienced and qualified personnel within the Urban County Government are assigned to monitor and inspect landscape material throughout the community. Adequate enforcement will also ensure that the existing tree canopy on developed land is not diminished.

TLW/BLS

6/1/17

Planning Services/Staff Reports/ZOTA/2017/ZOTA 2017-4 & SRA 2017-2 Environmental Services Landscape Examiner changes.docx