

City Council – Action Request Form

Date: February 12, 2024

To: Mayor, Mayor Pro Tempore, and Members of the City Council

From: Dr. Shaleen Miller, Sustainability Director

Council Action Requested:

Ordinance Approving an Amendment to Subsection 62-2 of Chapter 62 of the City Code Clarifying the Intent, Expectation and Code Enforcement of the Natural Yards

Strategic Focus Area: Livable Neighborhoods

Strategic Objective: No

Strategic Plan Action Item: None

Key Work Item: No



Summary of Information:

This request is for an update to Subsec 62-2 of the City Municipal Code, regarding Nuisances enumerated. This updates what has been known as the “Natural Yard Ordinance”. The Natural Yard Ordinance has allowed homeowners to follow a more natural vegetative state, rather than a turf grass yard. Over the past few years, the ordinance in its current state has created some confusion between residents and code enforcement. For this update, Sustainability collaborated with Planning & Development Services and Neighborhood Services in the development of the text and process changes. This update creates a procedure that should clarify intent and expectations for what a natural yard is, how code enforcement can identify the residents undertaking this type of yard, and provide a guideline for evaluation by Sustainability. In addition, the update changes the setback requirement so that residents with smaller lot sizes are not excluded from participating in the program.

The salient changes of the ordinance change the setback requirements from 20 feet to 5 feet. This should still allow homes on smaller lots to plant a natural landscape; however, it will maintain a distance from the vegetation from becoming a nuisance to passersby.

Committee Action:

Committee	CD/H/GG – 2/12/24	Action	Approval
For	Unanimous	Against	

Remarks: