

# **Legislative Advocacy Update FY2025**



**APACC Citizens Forest Health Working Group**

**January 2024**

# Legislative Advocacy Update FY2025

- **Recap** FY2024
- Stand-alone **Legislation** for this Council Session
- **Calendar for Advocacy**
  - **Testimony** and Performance Oversight and Budget Hearings

# FY2024 Recap

- **Doubled** Forest Maintenance Grant funding to \$300k to extend to new areas of the City and new partners
- **Requested** Cross-Agency Working Group caring for natural spaces led by DOEE, involving a diversity of agencies ranging from health and public safety to racial equity and land/facilities management.
- **Increased** funding and support for PRISM (Moved to COG)
- **Advocated** for FloodSmart program

# **B25-0487-Office of Natural Area Conservation (ONAC) Establishment Act of 2023**

**CM Lewis George**

- **Establish** the Office of Natural Area Conservation in DOEE
- **Develop** a “Forest Health and Invasive Plant Response Plan”
- **Coordinate** volunteer engagement in conservation efforts
- **Develop MOUs with NPS** to supplement management of their land

# **B25-564-Environmental Justice Act**

## **CM Parker**

- **Creates Environmental Justice Division at DOEE**
- **Creates a Cumulative Impact Statement that must be completed to obtain permits for environmentally harmful actions in overburdened communities (and a similar process for DC projects)**

# B25-472-Tree Preservation Enhancement Act

## Chair Mendelson

- Lowers the Special Tree **Circumference** from 44 to 25 inches
- Raises the **removal fee** for those who do not receive the Homestead deduction (higher costs for property owners who are not residents)
- **Allows for removal** of Heritage trees for a fee, the fee is lower if the party creates a conservation easement of comparable size (no specifications on where that has to be)

# Stand-Alone Legislation Advocacy

- **Advocate for hearing on Parker and Lewis-George bills before Budget Hearings**
  - **Letter of Support from groups?**
- **Mendelson Bill?**

## **FY2025 Budget and Oversight Hearings Calendar**

- **Performance and Oversight Hearings for Each Agency**
  - **January - February**
- **FY2025 Budget Hearings for Each Agency**
  - **March and April**
- **DOEE, DDOT/UFD, DGS, DPR and others**



# FY2025 Advocacy

- **Repeated requests** from different perspectives strengthen the case for shared priorities.
- **Diverse voices** from across the City
  - **Non-professional advocacy** gets their attention
- **Testimony** at all relevant hearings brings our shared message to different ears.

# FY2025 Advocacy

- **Continued support for Forest Maintenance Grant funding. Request Increase?**
- **Need for ONAC to support and lead efforts across agencies to support natural areas.**
- **Advocate for DOEE Environmental Justice office and other ways to support EQUITY in access to Nature**

# FY2025 Advocacy

**Your thoughts and suggestions for our shared work!**

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**THANK YOU for all that you do!**