

COUNTY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND
Legislative Session 2017, Legislative Day No. 8

Resolution No. 49-17

Mr. David Marks, Councilman

By the County Council, April 17, 2017

A RESOLUTION of the Baltimore County Council requesting the Baltimore County Commission on Environmental Quality to develop County-wide standards for specimen trees, with particular emphasis on such trees located on County-owned property.

WHEREAS, the Baltimore County Commission on Environmental Quality is charged with making recommendations on any environmental issue referred by the County Council; and

WHEREAS, as residential and commercial development of available land occurs, an increasing number of specimen trees are removed each year from the County landscape; and

WHEREAS, the County's reforestation and retention requirements seek to preserve trees that are determined to be rare, threatened or endangered under federal or state law, as well as champion trees and certain trees with a diameter of 30 inches or more, and these requirements apply with equal force to trees located on County-owned property; and

WHEREAS, despite these efforts, many specimen trees – trees that are of impressive size or shape, of historical significance, of a rare species, or recognized as rare by federal or state law – are removed each year as more land is developed; and

WHEREAS, it is incumbent upon the County to try to preserve trees that are in many ways irreplaceable, especially so with respect to trees on County-owned property; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND, that the Baltimore County Commission on Environmental Quality is requested to develop standards for the identification, maintenance, and preservation of specimen trees in Baltimore County,

including protections that should be in place, especially for such trees on County-owned property; and
be it further

RESOLVED, that the Commission shall hold at least one public hearing and shall consider
testimony from all stakeholder groups; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Commission shall report its findings and recommendations, on or before
June 1, 2017, to the Baltimore County Council and to the Department of Environmental Protection and
Sustainability.