

CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY



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Bill Type and Number: Resolution 2024-388

Introducer/Sponsor(s): Council President Salem

Date of Introduction: May 14, 2024

Committee(s) of Reference: R

Date of Analysis: May 13, 2024

Type of Action: Appointment

Bill Summary: This bill confirms the Council President's appointment of Patrick Alden Howell to the Tree Commission, as a member of an environmental organization from the At-Large Group 5 residency area, filling a seat formerly held by Isaac Rhodes Robinson, for a first full term to expire December 31, 2025.

Background Information: The Tree Commission is established as an advisory board pursuant to Chapter 94, *Ordinance Code*, and empowered to study, make recommendations, and formulate an overall plan with respect to the planting of trees and the health of the City's tree canopy which includes maintenance of an inventory of the urban tree canopy, conducting educational outreach programs, preparing and analyzing maps, identifying issues relating to health of public trees, recommend and develop opportunities for the City's grant writing office to aide in solicitation of donations to support the tree canopy, perform an annual audit of funded projects to be included in an annual report to the Mayor's Office and City Council. Finally, it is the duty of the Commission to review expenditure proposals for planting projects and formulate a priority list, based on established criteria for recommendation to the Council.

Section 94.103, *Ordinance Code*, provides that three of the seven members of the Commission shall be appointed by the Council from the general public. Members should possess a specialized knowledge about trees and, to the extent possible; members should represent each Council At-Large residency area and come from various categories, including a member of an environmental organization.

Mr. Howell holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Alabama and a master's degree from Sotheby's Institute of Art. He works in real estate development for W.R. Howell Inc. and serves on the Real Estate Acquisition Committee for Ability Housing. Mr. Howell is a member/advocate for Dark Sky International, an environmental organization that seeks to protect communities from the harmful effects of light pollution through outreach, advocacy, and conservation. He resides in Duval County in council district 7.

Policy Impact Area: Tree Commission operations

Fiscal Impact: No direct cost to the City

Analyst: Hampsey