

Testimony of Delores Bushong
Before the Board of Zoning Adjustment
Regarding Boundary Cos.' Proposal for
St Paul's Townhomes Development
May 31, 2017

Good morning. My name is Delores Bushong and I have lived in Ward 5 for over 28 years, and never more than 10 minutes away from the St. Paul's property to be developed by Boundary Cos. I am also a Tree Advocate with Casey Trees and a community representative on the city's Urban Forestry Advisory Council.

When I heard this property would be developed I looked at the plan and was saddened to learn that of the 165 trees on the property, 70 would be removed, including 25 that are considered "Special Trees" under the Urban Forestry Preservation Act of 2002. That means that they have a circumference of 55 inches or more. Under Boundary Cos.' current plan 24 "Special Trees" would be removed.

On a recent sunny day, I was walking through the property's beautiful grove of large trees with wide canopies when I came upon two young boys, age 4-5, playing under the trees. They saw I was looking at a tree and comparing it to Boundary's Site Plan with trees marked for removal. I didn't have the heart to tell them what each black X on the site plan meant.

Instead, one of them asked me what kind of tree it was. I showed him how I knew it was a white oak, a truly magnificent "Special Tree", and I showed him where it was on the map. He wanted to know what the next one was. I knew it was a white oak, but when I looked on the map it wasn't marked. I checked with Casey Trees and they had it on their inventory of the trees. Can we trust that all the trees that will be removed are even on the site map? Perhaps Boundary needs to redo the inventory for accuracy.

I have made a visual representation for you to see the "special trees" that would be removed from this site. Look at the estimated ages of some of these special trees which I calculated using a formula published by the International Society of Arboriculture. First, let me show you the size of the oldest tree on the property, a white oak that is 245 years old. Or look at this Northern Red Oak that is 236 years old. That is how long it would take before any replacement trees on this property would reach the size of the trees currently living in this grove. Even when those young boys are my age the new trees will not be the same size they are now.

I don't have time to describe each tree or the size, but I will hold each up for you to see the size and sheer number of protected trees that will literally vanish if you approve this plan. Please save this grove of trees. Boundary Cos. can use other areas of this property to build town houses that would have far less impact on these magnificent trees.