

file 200 W Mkt St.
Fellini's

CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE

"A World Class City"

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April 18, 2006

Mr. Joseph M. Cochran
Richmond & Fishburn, LLP
214 East High Street
Charlottesville, VA 22902-5177

Dear Mr. Cochran:

Thank you for your recent letter on behalf of Mr. Ben May, owner of Fellini's Restaurant on East Market Street, requesting removal of a tree along Market Street: as Mr. May is concerned that the roots of these trees could again encroach upon the building foundation as they had previously.

A Certified Arborist in our Parks and Recreation Department has inspected the three trees in this area adjacent to Fellini's restaurant. As a point of reference, these are Zelcova trees, which are known to be very hardy in urban conditions; however their root systems are very aggressive and grow deep. It is the Arborist's judgment that the trees are healthy, with their root systems intertwined. Unfortunately, there are other consequences of this type of root growth, visible pushing up of the concrete sidewalk and potential encroachment on building foundations; particularly in areas with limited soil volume.

There are several approaches that can be taken to address this issue.

First, as the trees are healthy, we can leave them alone at this time and continue to monitor the situation through regular inspections of the trees in question.

Second, the trees could be removed. It is the recommendation of the Arborist that if one tree is removed, all three should be removed and the sidewalk repaired. The trees would not be replaced. The cost of removal would likely be no more than \$4,000 through the City's contractor.

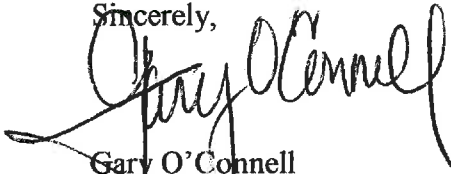
Third, the trees could be removed and replaced with a more suitable species. Planting of replacement trees will necessitate significant root removal in order for replacement trees of a different species to be successful. In addition, tree replacement in this area of the City must go before the Board of Architectural Review for approval. Given the extensive root removal that

would be required, it is difficult to estimate a total project cost for this option; but it is likely to be quite expensive.

These options each present different solutions to the potential problem; and have very disparate costs. Please consult with Mr. May on these options and let us know of his desires. Brian Daly, Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation will be glad to assist you as you move forward. Brian can be reached at 434-970-3021 or via e-mail at dalyb@charlottesville.org.

I apologize for the delay in responding to your letter, and I look forward to a successful outcome on this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary O'Connell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "G".

Gary O'Connell
City Manager

cc: Mike Svez, Director, Parks and Recreation
Mary Joy Scala, Neighborhood Development Services
Tim Hughes, Urban Forester