

Camden City
TREE CANOPY GOAL

WHEREAS, According to American Forests, "Tree cover in urban areas east of the Mississippi has declined by about 30% over the last 20 years, while the footprint of the urban areas has increased by 20%. With this decline in tree cover, significant air and water management costs have increased. Tree cover is directly related to environmental quality. Maintaining a robust enough tree cover to function as green infrastructure reduces the need and expense of building infrastructure to manage air and water resources;" AND

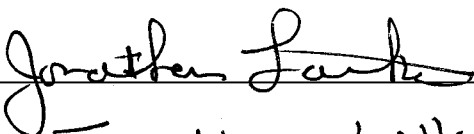
WHEREAS, The International Society of Arboriculture states: "The urban forest serves a wide variety of functions that promote the health, safety, and general welfare of residents. These functions include:

- conserving energy, by providing shade and evaporative cooling through transpiration;
- improving local and global air quality by absorbing carbon dioxide and ozone, adsorbing particulate matter, and producing oxygen;
- reducing wind speed and directing air flow;
- reducing noise pollution;
- providing habitat for birds, small mammals, and other wildlife;
- reducing storm runoff and the potential for soil erosion;
- increasing real property values;
- enhancing visual and aesthetic qualities that attract visitors and businesses and serve as a source of community image and pride; AND

WHEREAS, "All these benefits increase as canopy cover increases. By establishing and maintaining maximum tree cover, the community is able to realize the maximum benefits the urban forest can provide. The maximum amount of tree canopy a given community can support must be determined by analyzing limitations posed by climate and land use;" AND

WHEREAS, the City of Camden's current tree canopy is estimated at 5.2%.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Shade Tree Advisory Board of Camden City is hereby setting a canopy goal of 25%.

Chair Signature: 
Name (Printed): Jonathan LATHCO
Date Approved: JUNE 13, 2012