## OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS COMMUNICATION APRIL 18, 2023 AGENDA

AI KIL 10, 2023 AGENDA		
Subject:	Action Required:	Approved By:
An ordinance to amend Little Rock, Ark., Rev. Code Chapter 15 (1988), Landscaping and Tree Protection	√ <b>Ordinance</b> Resolution	
Submitted By:		
Public Works Department		Bruce T. Moore City Manager
SYNOPSIS	An ordinance to amend Little Rock, Ark., Rev. Code Chapter 15 (1988), Landscaping and Tree Protection ("Landscape Ordinance"), in order to restrict the use of invasive plant species in commercial landscapes due to their interference with the ecosystem and natural habitats and in order to have more plant species native to the area.	
FISCAL IMPACT	None.	
RECOMMENDATION	Approval of the ordinance.	
BACKGROUND	A stated purpose and intent of the Landscape Ordinance is to "[e]ncourage green/sustainable practices as a purpose to aspire towards for all applicable landscape projects". Non-native invasive plant species have the potential to overpopulate and negatively affect their environment by causing ecological, environmental, or economic damage and placing existing native plant species at risk of extinction. Non-natives have not evolved in our natural environment. They propagate easily and tend to move reproduce beyond the confines of commercial plantings and into nearby natural areas and green spaces. They	

are typically fast-growing, are subject to few natural controlmechanisms, and do not provide much habitat or food value to the native birds and small mammals.

## BACKGROUND CONTINUED

Non-natives also tend to form dense, mono-culture communities that exclude the native species that do provide the needed habitat and food value.

The Little Rock Sustainability Commission consulted a team of diverse stakeholders who identified non-native plant species which are recommended on the existing Landscape Ordinance that warrant restrictions based on the economic and environmental harm that they cause.

On February 23, 2023, the Little Rock City Beautiful Commission voted to recommend changes to the City's Landscape Ordinance in order to restrict the use of invasive plant species in commercial landscapes due to invasive plant species' interference with the ecosystem and natural habitats and in order to have more plant species native to the area.