



May 20, 2009

Mr. Christopher Morgan
Division Director – Planning, Preservation & Sustainability
City of Charleston
75 Calhoun Street – Third Floor
Charleston, South Carolina 29401

Dear Mr. Morgan:

I have been asked to review written statements regarding the long term health and conservation of the Angel Oak by Dr. Don Ham, a tree health care and development consultant involved with what is being called the Angle Oak Village project. I was asked to review statements regarding development activities, their impacts on the Angel Oak, and whether the proposed procedures, processes, and treatments would have a positive outcome for the continued health and structural integrity of the tree over the short and long run.

As Executive Director of the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) an association that represents nearly 20,000 professional Arborists with members throughout the United States and in 50 countries and on six continents, proper management of the trees is of key importance to me. ISA represents tree care professionals in what is estimated to be an 18 billion dollar a year Industry. Our members represent several diverse sectors, namely Commercial Arboriculture, Urban/City Forestry, Utility Arboriculture, landscape architects, nurseryman, and Researchers and Teachers.

I encourage you to trust in the expertise and experience of Dr. Ham. The conservation or non-disturb area recommended to be retained around the Angel Oak far exceeds the “root protection zone” best management practices we currently have for the industry and as a result the nearby construction should have no negative impacts on the tree.

Sincerely:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Skiera'.

James R. Skiera, Executive Director
International Society of Arboriculture

JRS/jlm