

MEMORANDUM



DATE: August 27, 2014
TO: Michael Herring, City Administrator
FROM: ^{MO} Mike Geisel, Director of Public Services
RE: Street Tree Replacement Program

As you may recall, in 2008, the City initiated funding of the street tree replacement program which allows residents to participate in the cost for replacement of street trees within the public right of way. Each year, residents make application to the City, along with their \$100 fee, and the City contracts separately for a spring, and fall tree planting. Initially this program was budgeted at \$50,000 annually. Actual annual expenses have ranged between \$17,000 and \$60,000. The 2014 budget provided \$25,000 for this program and the spring planting activity consumed \$17,040, leaving just under \$8,000 for the fall planting contract.

We have received a substantial number of applications for the fall planting, which, if accepted would cause us to exceed the budgetary allocation. At this juncture, we estimate that if all applications are processed, it would result in an additional \$45,000 in contractual expenses for tree replacements. It should be noted that the program policy is very clear, tree replacements are subject to available program funding. As such, we control the number of tree replacements we authorize and therefore have complete control over our budget. We would simply process the tree replacement requests on a first come, first served basis and hold the remaining requests until the spring planting opportunity if funded in 2015.

However, if it is Council's preference to fully fund the program and process all applications, a budgetary adjustment of \$37,000 will be required and an associated transfer from the General Fund – Fund Reserves.

As such, I request that this information be provided to the Planning and Public Works Committee of City Council for direction and subsequently forwarded to City Council if a supplemental budgetary authorization is recommended.

If you have further questions please let me know.

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JAG