



CITY OF COMMERCE AGENDA REPORT

TO: Honorable City Council **Item No. _____**

FROM: City Administrator

SUBJECT: Tree Maintenance on Private Property in the Village Residential Community

MEETING DATE: August 19, 2014

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a resolution authorizing:

1. The release of a notification letter to property owners within the Village residential community (the Village) offering to remove Ficus trees on their private properties.
2. Removal of the trees with the property owners consent; and
3. Discontinuance of ongoing private tree maintenance within the Village.

ANALYSIS:

On July 1, 2014, staff provided a report to the City Council on the City's previous maintenance of trees on private property within the Village residential community (the Village). To date, the City has received requests from several property owners in the Village to cut roots back and/or remove the Ficus tree in their front yard. There are twelve residences with the subject trees remaining. Each tree was re-inspected recently and the initial quote to remove the trees includes root grinding and stump removal. An updated quote of \$5,702.00 adds the removal of concrete and brick planters surrounding a few trees.

Staff recommends, in the best interest of the City and affected residents, that the City notify the property owners of the end of this practice and extend a "final" opportunity to remove the trees. The owners may choose to remove or keep their tree. If the owner decides to keep the tree, it is the owner's responsibility to maintain the tree from this point forward including any trees planted on private property in the future. In so doing staff recommends that the City discontinue future ongoing tree maintenance in the Village. Privately owned tree maintenance increases the City's liability and this practice does not apply consistently to all private property within the City. The letter of notification is attached.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve staff recommendation.
2. Decline staff recommendation and provide further direction to staff.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The fiscal impact for removal of the Village Ficus trees is \$5,702.00. There are sufficient funds in Fiscal Year 2014/15 in account number 10-5165-55021, Tree and Turf Maintenance for the proposed tree removals.

RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC GOALS:

This item is related to the specific 2012 Strategic Goal to develop a tangible environmental mitigation plan.

Approved by: Maryam Babaki, Director of Public Works and Development Services

Prepared by: Gina Nila, Environmental Services Manager

Reviewed by: Vilko Domic, Finance Director

Approved as to form by: Eduardo Olivo, City Attorney

Respectfully submitted by: Jorge Rifa, City Administrator

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Notification letter to Village residential community property owners.