

MOTION

Recently a private entity conducted tree pruning activities on nine City street trees in the Silver Lake neighborhood of the 13th District.

Upon further investigation, it was found that the pruning was performed without a permit, and the poor quality of the pruning resulted in three of the trees requiring replacement, and three others requiring careful monitoring to ensure the canopy returns properly.

The urban forest is an essential component for healthy living in a densely populated environment. Trees help purify the air we breathe, help manage our City's water by intercepting pollutants from water that penetrates into the ground and helps reduce run off and flooding. Additionally, trees provide shade to homes, businesses and public rights of way thereby reducing the heat island effect.

It is imperative that the City take every effort to ensure the protection and preservation of our urban forest in order to reap all the environmental and aesthetic benefits that trees provide.

The City has some inspection and enforcement protocols as it relates to street trees, however incidents like the one noted here continue to occur and lead to further deterioration of the City's urban forest.

Action is needed to assess all current protocols and fiscal needs necessary to have a robust set of modern guidelines and appropriate enforcement mechanisms.

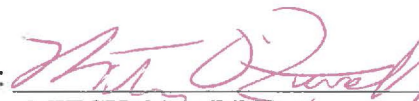
I THEREFORE MOVE that the Bureau of Street Services, with the assistance of the City Administrative Officer, and any other relevant departments to report back on the current protocols for inspection and enforcement of both permitted and unpermitted tree pruning and removal, funding and staffing levels within the Bureau of Street Services needed to effectuate current and any proposed guidelines, as well as general recommendations to improve current practices.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Bureau of Street Services, with the assistance of the City Attorney, and any other relevant departments, report back on recommendations for establishing monetary fines for illegal tree pruning and removals, including its inclusion within the Administrative Citation Enforcement Program.



JAN 26 2016

PRESENTED BY:


MITCH O'FARRELL
Councilmember, 13th District

SECONDED BY:



ORIGINAL