

MOTION

The Bureau of Street Services, Street Tree and Parkway Maintenance Division (BSS) is responsible for the maintenance and preservation of approximately 700,000 street trees planted in the public right-of-way along 6,500 centerline street miles. It is estimated that the City's entire tree population exceeds 10 million trees. Street tree services undertaken by the BSS include street tree trimming, dead tree and stump removal, tree planting, small tree maintenance, watering, pest control, and maintenance of shrubs, turf and plantings within medians.

On November 18, 2015, the City Council and the Public Works and Gang Reduction (PWGR) Committee requested the City Administrative Officer (CAO) to coordinate a response to various street tree issues and concerns pending before the PWGR Committee. On October 21, 2016, the CAO released a report that addressed these matters (C.F. 15-0467-S3). Prior to the 2008-2012 time period, trees were pruned using a combination of City forces and contractors. The CAO determined that City forces are 18 percent more expensive than contractors. However, the average cost of trimming per tree has increased from \$56 in Fiscal Year 2010-11 to \$162 in Fiscal Year 2015-16, calling into question whether a lack of city tree trimming crews limits competition, thus driving up prices for city contracts.

As recommended by the CAO report, the BSS is currently in the process of preparing a report which explores the feasibility of requiring future Request for Bids to include caps on year-to-year price increases based on the Consumer Price Index. BSS is also in the process of reporting on additional productivity gains achieved with a restored tree trimming crew, and will be re-evaluating the use of City forces and contractors once the tree trimming crew is fully operational.

There is a need to further investigate the reasons for the rapid cost increases in the cost of contracted street tree trimming services in order to ensure that these services can be maintained in the future.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council instruct the City Administrative Officer, with the assistance of the Bureau of Street Services, to report on the cost-effectiveness of contracted tree trimming and tree removal and to include the following in its report: recommendations to create more market competition to reduce costs, the cost of tree-trimming services, contracted and in-house, over time for the last ten years, and any related matters as may be appropriate.

PRESENTED BY: David E. Ryu
DAVID E. RYU
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BMR

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