



PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE: JULY 28, 2004

ITEM NUMBER:

SUBJECT: TREE REMOVAL REQUEST – 604 KNOWELL PLACE

DATE: JULY 21, 2004

FROM: PUBLIC SERVICES DEPARTMENT, MAINTENANCE SERVICES DIVISION

PRESENTATION BY: BRUCE A. HARTLEY, MAINTENANCE SERVICES MANAGER

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: BRUCE A. HARTLEY, (714) 754-5123

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Commission deny the request for the removal of one (1) Carob Tree located in front of 604 Knowell Place.

BACKGROUND

The Maintenance Services Division was contacted on June 7, 2004 by the property owner at 604 Knowell Place requesting the removal of the parkway tree located in front of her house. The basis for the request, as stated by the property owner, is apparent damage to the walkway and driveway located on private property, allegedly caused by the City tree. See Attachment 1.

On June 8, 2004 Jim Ortiz, Acting Sr. Maintenance Supervisor investigated the field conditions and made contact with the resident. After evaluating the conditions, Mr. Ortiz informed the resident that the tree did not meet the City's criteria for removal as stated in the "Streetscape and Median Development Standards". The Maintenance Services Manager subsequently reviewed the information and found the denial to be justified.

The City received a letter dated June 9, 2004, from Debbie Green, the property owner of 604 Knowell Place, appealing the staff decision and requesting that the City remove the Carob tree located in the public right-of-way in front of her home. See Attachment 2.

ANALYSIS

The tree is a Carob Tree, *Ceratonia siliqua*. It is growing in the public right-of-way that is ten feet (10') wide which, due to the lack of a sidewalk and parkway at this address, is in the front lawn of the home. The tree is approximately twenty-six to thirty feet (26-30') in height with a trunk diameter of eighteen inches (18"). The tree is in good health. The tree was pruned last on October 1, 2001 as part of the City's normal trimming cycle for that area and will be trimmed again within the next six to nine months.

The tree could not be relocated with any probability of success, due to its age and size. There are no obvious signs of any hazards or disease in the tree. There is apparent minor infrastructure damage (minimal lifting and slight cracking) to the City's curb, gutter and

street. See Attachment 3. However, there is no sidewalk at this location, so there are no other obvious signs of damage to City property.

The damage to walkway and the driveway on private property does not appear to be caused by the parkway tree. There are no visible surface roots or other indications that the roots of the City tree are traveling the distance necessary to cause the damage. If upon excavation evidence of root intrusion is found, the City would request an opportunity to document it.

The City has not received any claims of sewer line problems or any other infrastructure damage at this location. The tree does not meet any of the criteria that would support a staff approval of the request. Carob trees are not considered “problem tree species”. Staff denied the request.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

1. The Commission could approve the request to remove one (1) City parkway tree located at 604 Knowell Place, with the requirement that the tree be replaced in a three-to-one ratio, with one twenty-four inch box-size tree, and two (2) fifteen gallon-size trees, to be planted elsewhere on public property as specified in the Streetscape and Median Development Standards. All removal and replacement costs to be paid by the applicant.
2. The Commission could deny the request for the removal of one City parkway tree located at 604 Knowell Place.

FISCAL REVIEW

There would be no fiscal impact as a result of the alternatives provided, as all costs would be the applicant’s responsibility. If the City were to remove the tree, the cost would be \$250.

LEGAL REVIEW

No legal review is required for this item.

CONCLUSION

The tree that is the subject of the request for removal is a City-owned tree located in the public right-of-way in at 604 Knowell Place. It is healthy and is causing only minor problems with the curb and gutter. It is not damaging any buried utilities. The applicant is requesting removal on the basis that the tree is causing damage to private property. However, staff cannot find any evidence that the damage is attributable to the parkway tree. The request does not meet the established removal criteria as stated in the Streetscape and Median Development Standards. Therefore, staff recommends denial of the removal request.

BRUCE A HARTLEY
Maintenance Services Manager

WILLIAM J. MORRIS
Public Services Director

ATTACHMENTS: 1 [Photographs of Tree – Front View Facing House](#)
2 [Letter to City from Ms. Debbie Green dated 6/09/04](#)
3 [Photographs of Tree and Driveway](#)

C: Debbie Green
604 Knowell Place
Costa Mesa, CA 92627

File Name 072804 – 604 Knowell Pl. Tree Removal Request Staff Report

Date 07/19/04

Time 5:00 p.m.