



# *PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION AGENDA REPORT*

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MEETING DATE: SEPTEMBER 28, 2011

ITEM NUMBER: 9a

**SUBJECT: TREE REMOVAL REQUEST – 174 AND 178 TULIP LANE**

**DATE: SEPTEMBER 12, 2011**

**FROM: PUBLIC SERVICES DEPARTMENT, MAINTENANCE SERVICES DIVISION**

**PRESENTATION BY: BRUCE A. HARTLEY, MAINTENANCE SERVICES MANAGER**

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

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## **RECOMMENDATION**

Deny the request for the removal and replacement of two City-owned parkway trees located in the public right-of-way at 174 and 178 Tulip Lane.

## **BACKGROUND**

The Maintenance Services Division was contacted by telephone on July 11, 2011, regarding the process required for the removal and replacement of two City owned parkway trees. The City Arborist informed the caller about the criteria and appeal process.

On July 11, 2011, the City Arborist conducted a site visit and confirmed that the trees did not meet criteria for removal as outlined in the Streetscape and Median Development Standards (Standards). On July 15, 2011, a letter and a removal criteria packet were sent to the resident. See Attachment 1.

The Maintenance Services Division received a letter from the property owner (Applicant) on August 1, 2011, requesting the removal of the parkway trees in front of the home. See Attachment 2.

The following justifications for the request, as stated in the Applicant's letter are:

1. The trees have uprooted the walkways to the point of making a fall of a tenant just a matter of time.
2. They have repaired the walkways through the years and now the walkway resembles a hill.
3. When it rains, a pool of water is created at the front door and has flooded the entries of the apartments.
4. They have had to change the front doors and have patched the walkways beyond a reasonable safe pathway to the apartment entrances.
5. These trees provide a danger and lawsuit potential.

## **ANALYSIS**

The City Arborist evaluated the trees. Both trees are a Eucalyptus, *Eucalyptus spp.*, and found them to be healthy and in good condition. The tree located at 174 Tulip Lane is approximately fifty-five feet (55') in height, with a trunk diameter of thirty-five inches (35"). The tree located at 178 Tulip Lane is approximately thirty-five feet (35') in height, with a trunk diameter of sixteen inches (16"). Both trees are located in a seven foot (7') wide parkway. There is no sidewalk at this location. The aerial portions of both trees were last pruned on January 7, 2010, by the City's tree maintenance contractor. See Attachment 3 and 4.

The trees do not meet the criteria for a staff level authorization for removal, as stated in the Standards. The City Arborist evaluated the trees for possible relocation, but believes that due to the age and large size of the trees, relocation would cause damage to the trees, the private property and City infrastructure. Therefore, relocation is not recommended.

Root pruning was deemed to be a viable maintenance action, but only to protect City infrastructure and is not necessary at this time.

The Applicant has been notified of the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting and has been sent a copy of this staff report.

## **ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED**

1. The Commission could authorize the removal and replacement of the trees, per the Streetscape and Median Development Standards, Section 4.0.3 – Discretionary Removals, which would require the replacement of the trees with one (1) twenty-four inch box-size tree to be planted at the same address and two (2) fifteen gallon-size trees to be planted elsewhere on City property, for each tree removed. The applicant would pay all removal and replacement costs.

If approved by the Commission, the trees must be removed and mitigation trees provided to the City within one year from the date of final approval, after which the approval expires.

## **FISCAL REVIEW**

There would be no fiscal impact to the City if the request to remove the trees was either denied or approved as a Discretionary Removal, as the Applicant would pay all costs.

For the Commission's information, the cost for the removal of both trees would be \$790.50. The replanting costs for the six mitigation trees (2 – 24" box size and 4 – 15 gallon size) would be \$612.00. Costs are based on current City contract prices. Total cost for removal and replacement would be \$1,402.50.

The current estimated value of the trees is: \$7,460.

## LEGAL REVIEW

No legal review is required for this item.

## CONCLUSION

The parkway trees that have been requested to be removed are located within the public right-of-way in front of 174 and 178 Tulip Lane. The trees are healthy and in good condition, but appear to be causing minor damage to the private entry sidewalks. The trees do not meet the removal criteria as outlined in the Standards. It is recommended that the Commission deny the request for removal of the City parkway trees.

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BRUCE A. HARTLEY  
Maintenance Services Manager

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PETER NAGHAVI  
Director of Public Services

- ATTACHMENTS:
1. [Letter dated July 15, 2011 to Applicant regarding Tree Removal Criteria](#)
  2. [Letter received July 28, 2011 from Applicant Requesting Removal of City Parkway Trees](#)
  3. [Tree Information](#)
  4. [Tree Maintenance Information](#)

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