



PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE: MAY 22, 2014

ITEM NUMBER:

SUBJECT: TREE REMOVAL REQUEST - 2550 FORDHAM DRIVE

DATE: MAY 8, 2014

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

Deny the request for the removal of two City-owned parkway trees located on the Westbrook Place side of 2550 Fordham Drive.

BACKGROUND

The Maintenance Services Division was initially contacted by the Applicant on April 1, 2014, expressing concern that the parkway roots may be damaging the sidewalk and that he would like the tree removed. See Attachment 1.

ANALYSIS

The City Arborist conducted a site inspection on April 4, 2014. The two parkway trees being considered for removal are American Sweet Gum, *Liquidambar styraciflua*. Both trees are growing on the side of the property on Westbrook Place. The Arborist found them to be in fair condition. Tree #1 (S1) is approximately thirty-five feet (35') in height with a trunk diameter of eleven inches (11"). Tree #2 (S2) is approximately twenty-five feet (25') in height with a trunk diameter of ten inches (10"). Both trees are growing in a parkway five and one half feet (5.5') in width, adjacent to a four foot (4') wide sidewalk.

It was observed that the a panel of the sidewalk is raised approximately three quarters inch (0.75") at one end and approximately one and three quarters inch (1.75") adjacent to tree S1. The curb is also cracked and displaced adjacent to both trees. To protect the sidewalk from further damage, root pruning could be performed along the back of the sidewalk adjacent to tree S2. It is the opinion of the Arborist that there is insufficient space between the sidewalk and tree S2 to safely root prune the tree without compromising its stability and risking failure. See Attachment 2. The concrete could be removed and replaced, with the selected tree roots shaved down or removed depending on the conditions found, to allow replacement of the sidewalk and achieve short term relief to the raised concrete. However, the trees are not yet fully mature and will likely double in diameter and height.

The trees are pruned on a 3-4 year trimming cycle and were pruned last on January 16, 2013.

At the time of inspection, there was no evidence of damage to private property, as the garden wall had already been repaired.

The trees do not meet the criteria for a staff level authorization for removal (Category 1 or 2 removal criteria), as stated in the Streetscape and Median Development Standards. The Applicant was informed of that decision and was provided the removal criteria. The City Arborist evaluated the trees for possible relocation, but believes that due to the size, low species value and the high cost of relocating the trees, relocation is not recommended.

The City received a letter from the Applicant dated April 8, 2014, requesting the City remove the trees. See Attachment 1. The Applicant's letter provided the following reasons for the removal request:

- The trees are damaging the garden wall and the sidewalk along Westbrook.
- The roots has raised the sidewalk approximately two inches (2") in one area and one foot (1') in several others.
- The resident has already repaired and re-stuccoed the wall.

The Applicant is requesting that two American Sweetgum trees on the side of the residence be removed. The Applicant has been notified of the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting and has been sent a copy of this staff report.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

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 *each* tree 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. 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 were either denied or approved as a Category 3; Discretionary Removal, as the applicant would pay all costs.

For the Commission's information, the cost for the removal of the two trees would be \$325.50. The replanting costs for the mitigation trees (1 – 24" box size and 2 – 15 gallon size) would be \$425 for each tree removed, for a total replacement cost of \$850. Total cost for removal and replacement would be \$1,175.50. Costs are based on current City contract prices. The estimated value of both trees are \$3,260 each.

LEGAL REVIEW

No legal review is required for this item.

CONCLUSION

The two City-owned street trees that are being requested to be removed are located in the public right-of-way on the side parkway of 2550 Fordham Drive. The Applicant is requesting removal of the parkway trees due to the problems created by the roots of the tree damaging the sidewalk and private garden wall. The trees do not meet the criteria required for staff approval. The City Arborist determined that the trees are in good condition and that root pruning may be a viable option to preserve at least one of the trees and that careful root removal in conjunction with sidewalk replacement may be possible for the second tree; therefore staff recommends that the Commission deny the request.


BRUCE A. HARTLEY
Maintenance Services Manager


for ERNESTO MUNOZ
Public Services Director

ATTACHMENTS: 1. Letter from Applicant
2. Tree Information and Photographs

C: Barry Freund
2550 Fordham Drive
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

4/8/2014
City of Costa Mesa
Bruce Hartley- Maintenance Services Manager
Public Services Maintenance Services Division
P. O. Box 1200
Costa Mesa, CA.
92628-1200

Dear Mr. Hartley,

I am the home owner and live at 2550 Fordham Street in Costa Mesa. I am requesting the removal of two street trees on the corner of Westbrooke and Fordham Drive in the College Park tract.

The Liquid Amber trees which are not designated "Problem Tree Species" are damaging our garden wall and the sidewalk that run along Westbrooke. I have already repaired and stuccoed our wall a couple of months ago.

I'd like to remove the two trees so they don't cause anymore damage to my wall and your sidewalk. From the roots the sidewalk is also raised approximately 2" in one area and 1' in several others. With time I think it's only going to get worse. Enclosed are pictures of the sidewalk, roots and repaired wall. Also included is the invoice for the completed wall repair.

Please Help!

Thank You for your consideration

Sincerely

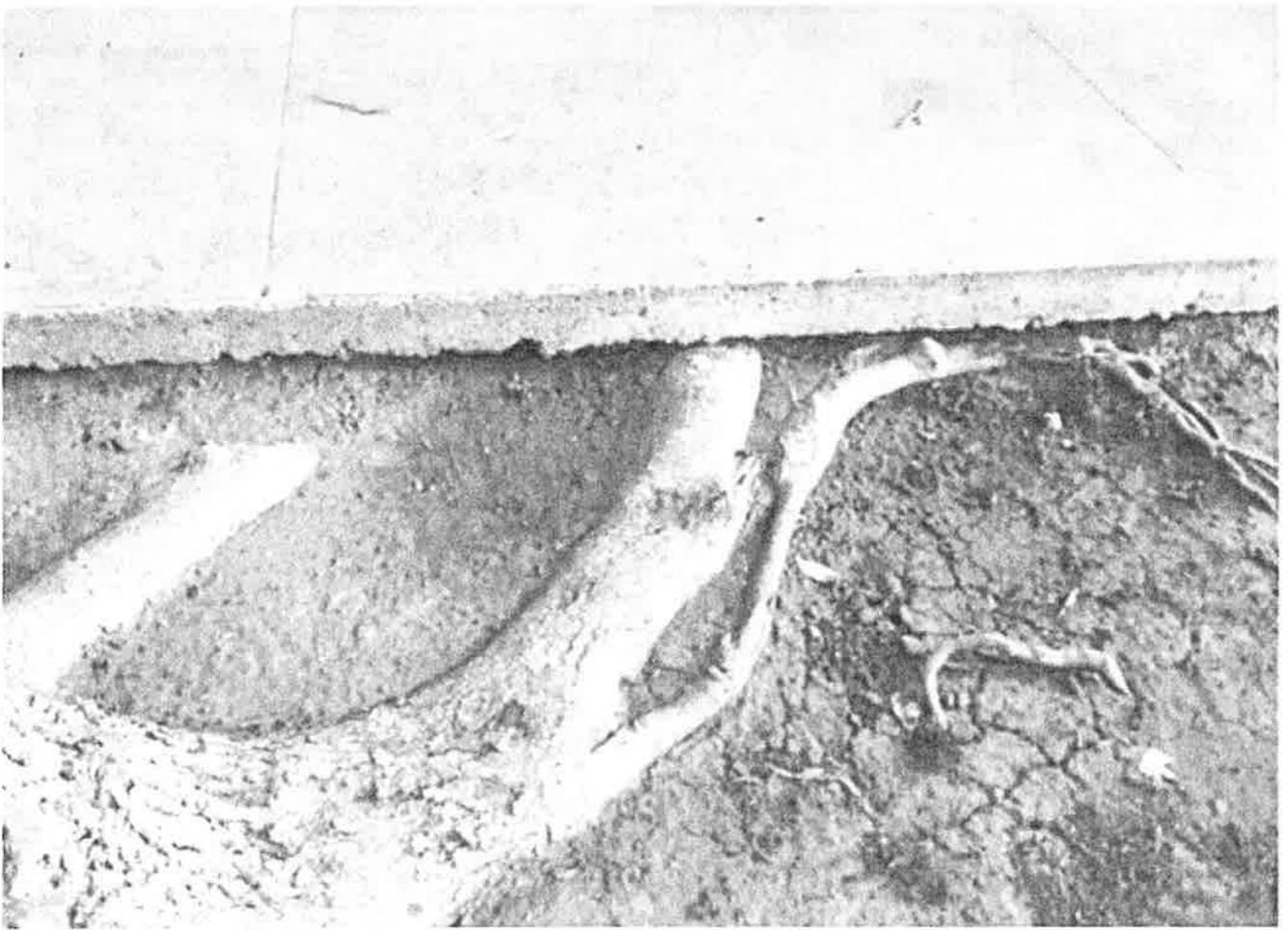
Barry Freund



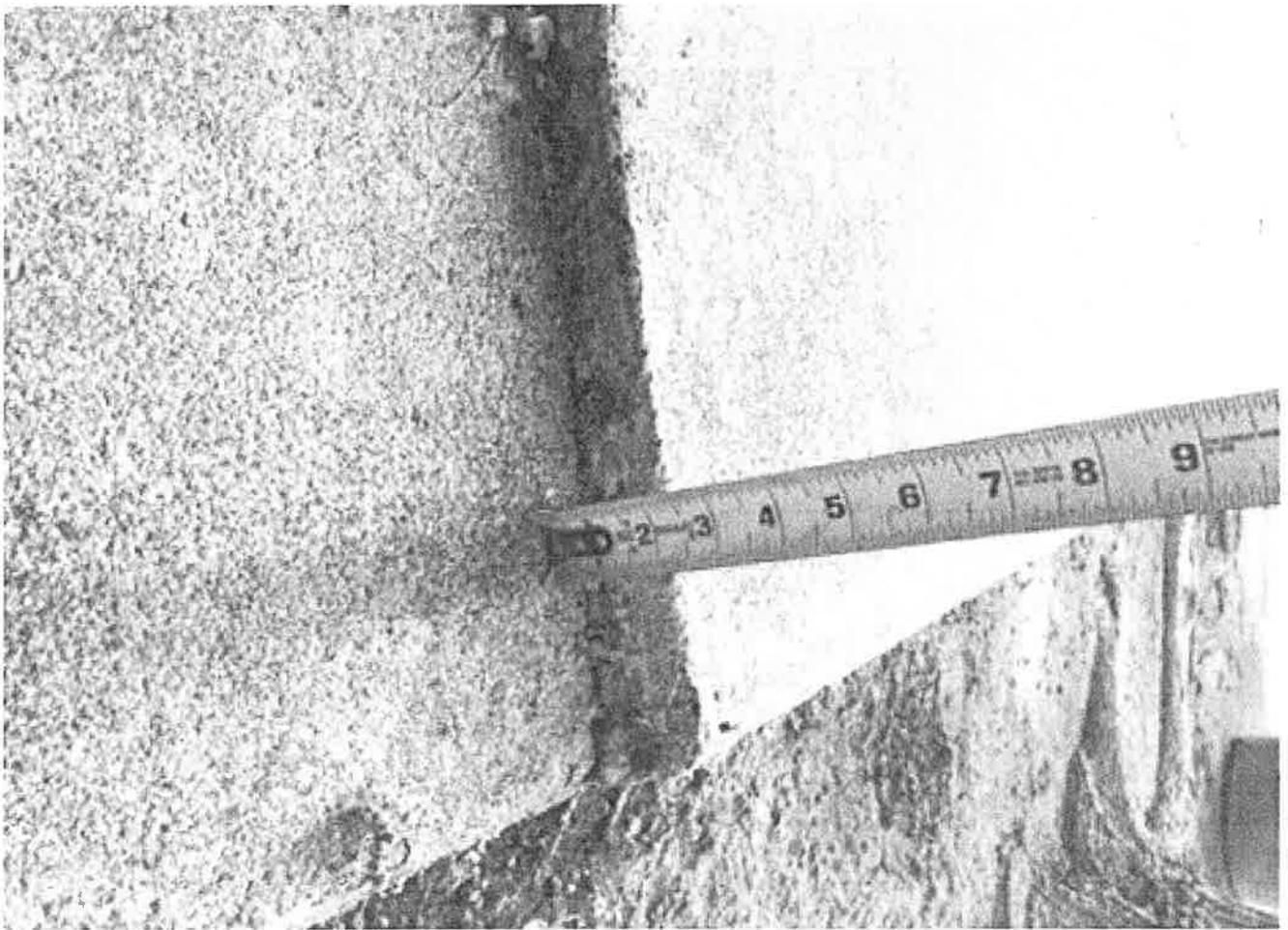
P.S. Please feel free to call me if you have any questions.



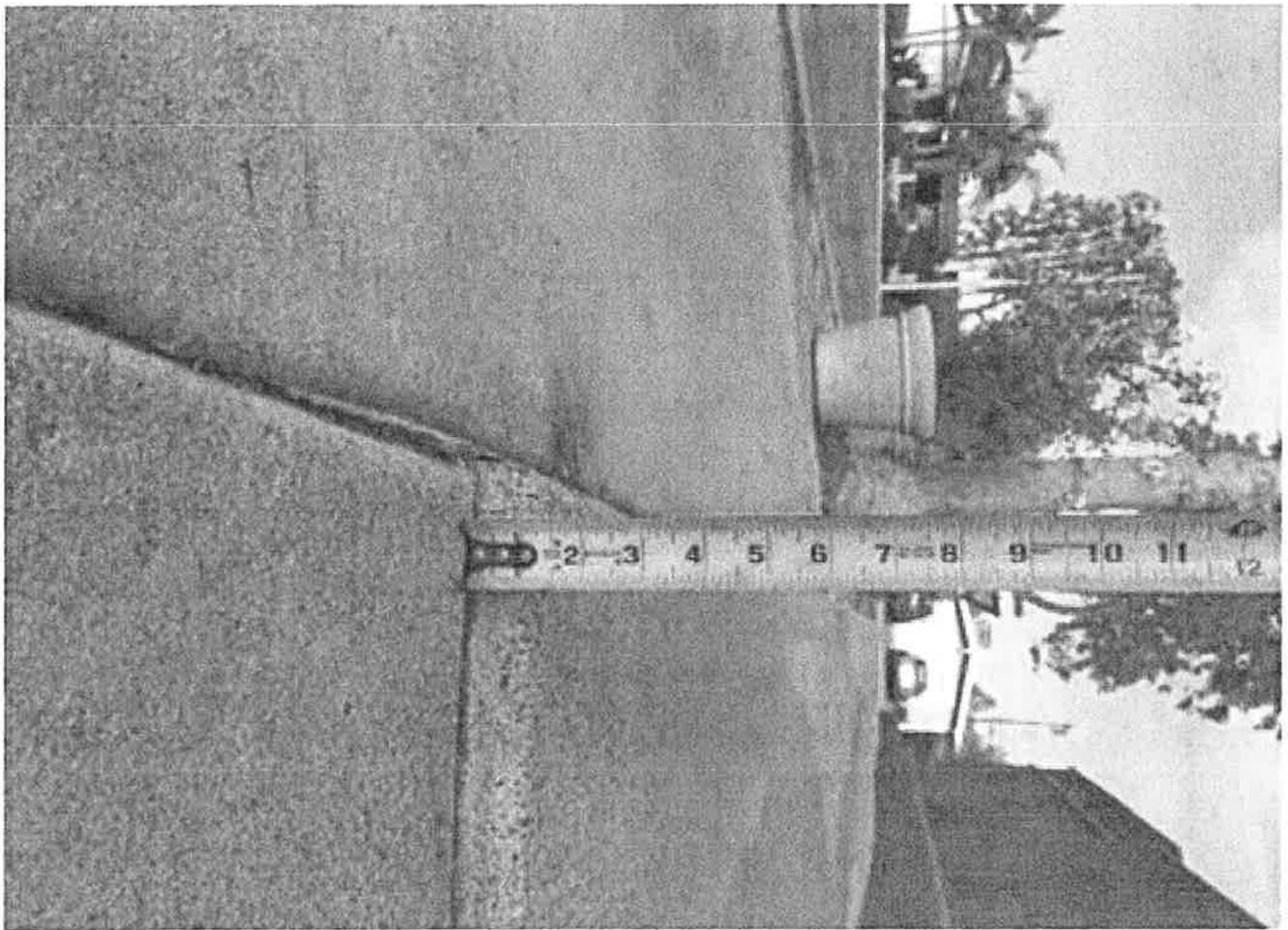
#2 LONG VIEW OF PART OF DAMAGED
AREA BY ROOTS.



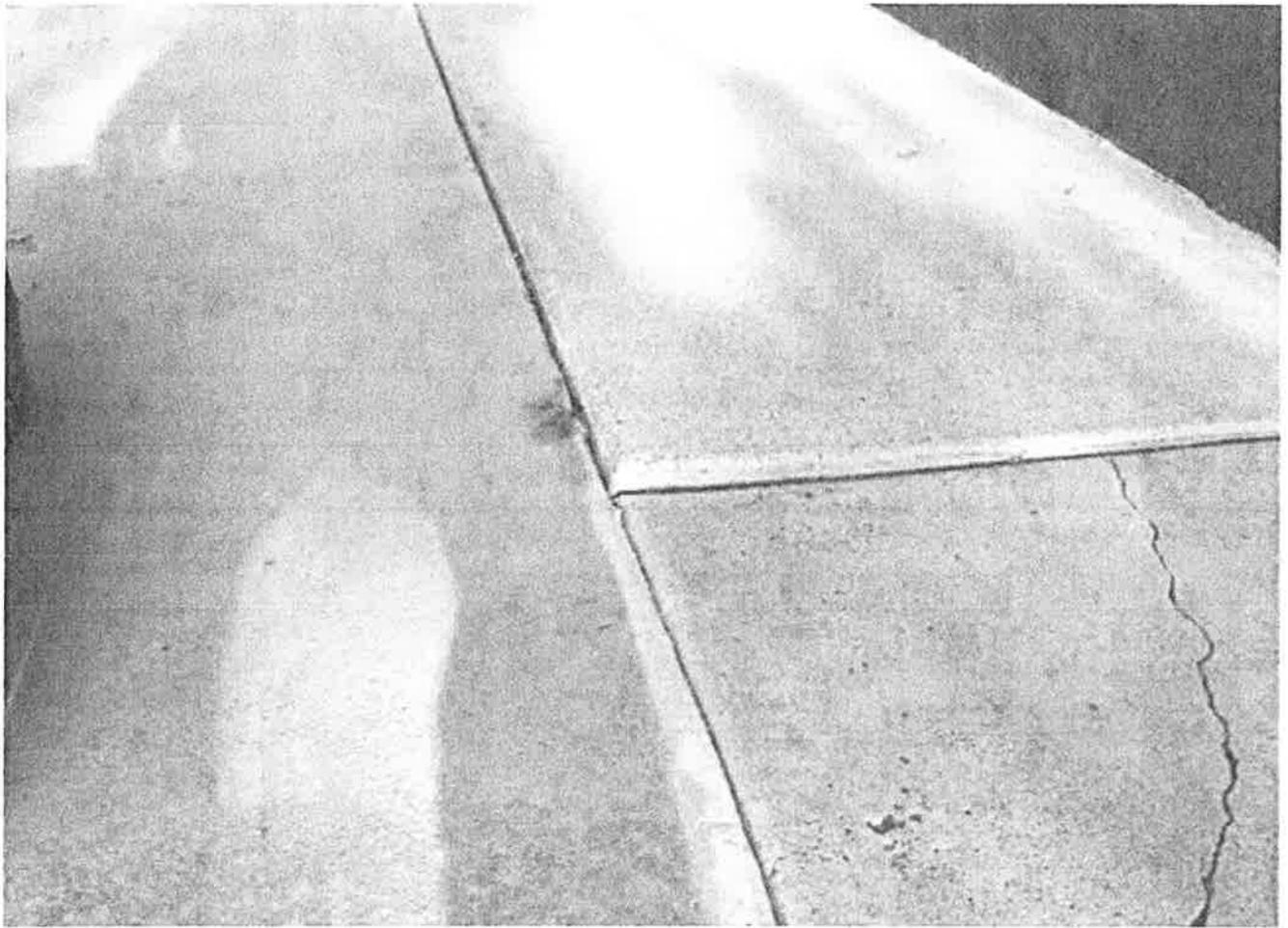
ANOTHER ROOT AREA CLOSE UP
ABOUT 8" CALIBER ROOT UNDER
SIDEWALK



2" + RISE w SIDE WALK



1" + RISE IN SIDEWALK - OTHER END



CONCRETE LIFTING ALL OVER THE SIDEWALK
BY TREES BECAUSE OF ROOTS.

I THINK IT COULD BE A PROBLEM
FOR THE KIDS & OLD PEOPLE, POSSIBLE
TRIP & FALL.

CAN WE ALSO GRIND THE CONCRETE?

City of Costa Mesa
Maintenance Services Division
FIELD INSPECTION – TREE INFORMATION

ATTACHMENT #2

Date Request Received: _____

Name of Resident: Barry Freund Requesting Party: _____
Address: 2550 Fordham Dr. Address: _____
Home Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____
Work Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Date Inspected: 5/02/2014
Inspected By: Daniel Dominguez III – Interim City Arborist
Parkway Maintenance Report:

Tree Species: Liquidambar styraciflua S1 Removal Cost: (DBH x \$15.50)= \$ 170.50
Height: 35 Feet Width of Sidewalk: 4 Feet
Trunk Diameter: 11 Inches Size of Right-of-Way: 10 Feet

Health: Good Fair Poor Date of Last Pruning: 1/16/2013

Is the Tree a good candidate for Relocation? Yes No

Likelihood of survival: Good Fair Poor

Comments: **Large root system, sidewalk, curb & gutter, private fence, and asphalt street would have to be removed and replaced. Estimated tree value is \$3,260.00**

Concrete Damage: Yes No

If Yes, describe damage: **Sidewalk is raised, curb is cracked and displaced.**

Can the Tree be Root Pruned: Yes No Date: _____

Root Pruning Comments: **Root pruning will compromise stability.**

Date of Response to Resident: _____

Date Information Packet Mailed: _____

Photos Taken: Yes No Date Photos Taken: 5/2/2014

Photo #1: **Street view looking north**
Photo #2: **Street view looking west**
Photo #3: **Street view looking east**
Photo #4: **Base of tree.**







**City of Costa Mesa
Maintenance Services Division
FIELD INSPECTION – TREE INFORMATION**

Date Request Received: _____

Name of Resident: Barry Freund Requesting Party: _____

Address: 2550 Fordham Dr. Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Date Inspected: 5/02/2014

Inspected By: Daniel Dominguez III – Interim City Arborist

Parkway Maintenance Report:

Tree Species: Liquidambar styraciflua S2 Removal Cost: (DBH x \$15.50)= \$ 155.00

Height: 25 Feet Width of Sidewalk: 4 Feet

Trunk Diameter: 10 Inches Size of Right-of-Way: 10 Feet

Health: Good Fair Poor

Date of Last Pruning: 1/16/2013

Is the Tree a good candidate for Relocation? Yes No

Likelihood of survival: Good Fair Poor

Comments: **Sidewalk, curb & gutter, and asphalt street would have to be removed and replaced.
Estimated tree value is \$3,260.00**

Concrete Damage: Yes No

If Yes, describe damage: **Sidewalk is cracked, curb is cracked and displaced.**

Can the Tree be Root Pruned: Yes No Date: _____

Root Pruning Comments: **Root pruning can be performed on the sidewalk side.**

Date of Response to Resident: _____

Date Information Packet Mailed: _____

Photos Taken: Yes No

Date Photos Taken: 5/2/2014

Photo #1: **Street view looking north**

Photo #2: **Street view looking west**

Photo #3: **Street view looking east**

Photo #4: **Base of tree.**



