



PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE: SEPTEMBER 22, 2016

ITEM NUMBER: 10a

SUBJECT: TREE REMOVAL REQUEST - 1850 NEW JERSEY STREET
DATE: SEPTEMBER 9, 2016
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 to remove one (1) City owned parkway tree growing in the public right-of-way at 1850 New Jersey Street.

BACKGROUND

The Maintenance Services Division was initially contacted by the Applicant via telephone on July 22, 2016 inquiring about the process for the removal of the parkway tree in front of her home. She was provided the requested information via electronic mail on July 25, 2016.

In a letter to the Maintenance Services Manager dated August 8, 2016 (See Attachment 1) the Applicant stated that she believes the tree is dangerous and is a hazard to her safety and her physically challenged friends when they are visiting. The Applicant is disabled and uses a wheelchair. According to the Applicant, the tree has buckled the sidewalk, which makes it a challenge to maneuver in a wheelchair, and the additional requirements of dodging the fruit from the tree is hazardous. She states that the fruit of the tree causes wheelchairs, baby strollers, wagons or any other devices with wheels to come to a sudden, abrupt stop.

ANALYSIS

Following the initial request, the City Arborist inspected the location and noted that the sidewalk was elevated due to the roots of the adjacent parkway tree. It was noted at that time that although elevated, the sidewalk panel immediately adjacent to the tree had not developed any displacement or height differential. The sidewalk did not meet criteria for maintenance. Several areas of raised sidewalk on New Jersey Street had previously been ground smooth on June 23, 2016, prior to any contact with the Applicant. However, to prevent further elevation of the 'peaked' sidewalk, the Arborist directed the City's tree maintenance contractor to prune the roots along the sidewalk and install eighteen inch (18") deep root barriers, which was completed on August 14, 2016. See Attachment 2.

On August 12, 2016, following the receipt of the Applicant's tree removal request, the City Arborist inspected the tree and location again. The tree is a Brisbane Box, *Lophostemon confertus*. The tree is approximately thirty-five feet (35') in height with a trunk diameter of

twenty-one inches (21"). It is growing in a five foot (5') wide turf parkway. The tree has been maintained by the City on a consistent 3 to 4 year cycle with the most recent maintenance performed on February 13, 2015. The tree displayed no observable structural defects and no signs of disease were present. The tree was determined to be in good 'health'. See Attachment 3.

The major issue appears to be the woody fruit of the tree, which may impact people in wheelchairs, pushing strollers or other wheeled devices. The fruit is seasonal, and is not something that may easily be prevented or reduced. Well-timed annual pruning may reduce the amount of the fruit, but would be difficult to coordinate on an on-going basis and would result in additional cost. At the time of inspection, there was no fruit on the ground around the tree.

The tree is not a risk to health and safety, is not dead, diseased or dying and does not appear to be creating any significant exposure to liability for the City. The fruit of the tree appears to be the major source of complaint, and apparently creates challenges to the resident. The section of sidewalk that is raised to a peak, while not meeting the typical threshold for replacement, will be scheduled through the Engineering Division for replacement. With the roots already cut and barriers installed, the raised sidewalk and the underlying roots will be removed and replaced.

The tree does not meet the criteria for a staff level authorization for removal, as stated in the Streetscape and Median Development Standards.

The City Arborist evaluated the tree for possible relocation, but believes due to the size, low probability of success and the high cost of relocating the tree, relocation is not recommended.

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

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

1. The Commission could authorize the removal of the tree as a Category 1 – 'Health and Safety' removal with all removal and replacement costs paid for by the City and make a determination as to whether or not a replacement tree is to be planted.
2. The Commission could authorize the removal and replacement of the tree, per the Streetscape and Median Development Standards, Section 4.0.2 Category 2 – Accelerated Removals, which would require the replacement of the tree with one (1) twenty-four inch box-size tree and two (2) fifteen gallon-size trees; with one (1) replanted at the at the same address and two (2) to be planted elsewhere on City property. The applicant would pay all removal and replacement costs.

If the tree removal is approved by the Commission, the payment for the removal of the parkway tree and any required mitigation trees must be provided to the City prior to removal and 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 tree was denied, or approved as a Category 2 - Accelerated Removal, as the Applicant would pay all costs.

For the Commission's information, removal cost for this tree would be \$334.95. The replanting costs for the mitigation trees (1 – 24" box size and 2 – 15 gallon container size) would be \$425. Costs are based on current City contract prices. The total cost for removal and replacement would be \$759.95.

If approved as a Category 1 – Health and Safety Removal, the cost to the City for the removal would be \$334.95; with a cost of \$225 for the installation of one (1) twenty-four inch (24") box-size replacement tree. Total cost would be \$559.95.

The value of the tree is estimated to be \$9,110.

LEGAL REVIEW

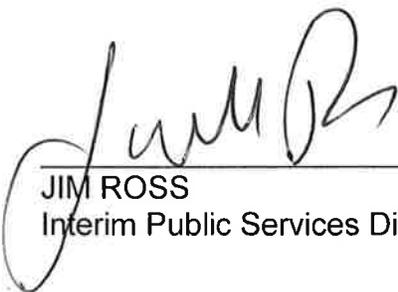
No legal review is required for this item.

CONCLUSION

The City-owned tree that has been requested to be removed at City expense is located in the public right-of-way at 1850 New Jersey Street. The tree is in good condition and has been maintained appropriately on a regular schedule. It has raised the sidewalk adjacent to the tree and has previously caused minor damage to the sidewalk. The tree has been root pruned with barriers installed and all raised concrete has been ground smooth. The does not meet the criteria for a Category 1 – Health and Safety Removal. It is recommended that the Commission deny the request to remove the City parkway tree at 1850 New Jersey Street.



BRUCE A. HARTLEY
Maintenance Services Manager



JIM ROSS
Interim Public Services Director

ATTACHMENTS: 1. Letter From Resident
 2. Tree Information & Maintenance History
 3. Photographs

C: Denise Lindsay
 1850 New Jersey Street
 Costa Mesa, CA 92626

RECEIVED
AUG 09 2016

August 8, 2016

Mr. Bruce Hartley
City of Costa Mesa
77 Fair Drive

Dear Bruce,

My name is Denise Lindsay. I live at 1850 New Jersey Street in Costa Mesa. This letter is a formal request to have the Giant Brisbane box tree in front of my house removed and replaced with a smaller less hazardous tree. Perhaps a Crape Myrtle tree similar to my neighbor's would be a good suggestion.

My safety is the reason for my request. Plus the safety of other physically challenged friends who frequently visit me. I am disabled and use a wheelchair to get around. The box tree is very dangerous. The roots of this tree have already buckled the side walk which makes it a challenge to maneuver in a wheelchair. The additional requirement of dodging the hard fruit from it deposited on the sidewalk is a hazard also. They are the size of a dime or larger. These fruit droppings fall and scatter all over the sidewalk. It is critical that something be done before someone gets hurt. Having experienced rolling into one of these marble pods is very alarming. It causes a wheelchair, baby stroller, wagon or any other device with wheels to come to a sudden stop. The stop is abrupt! Its neck breaking! This makes it extremely easy for someone in a wheelchair to loose their balance and fall out. I have experienced that. My request is for the tree to be removed and replacement with a less formidable tree.

I appreciate your consideration in this matter, and am looking forward to coming to a satisfactory compromise for both of us. When one of my physically challenged friends comes to visit I don't want any accidents to happen whereby someone gets hurt. This is for health and safety of others. Thanks again. I can be reached at [REDACTED] or my email [REDACTED]

Sincerely
[REDACTED]

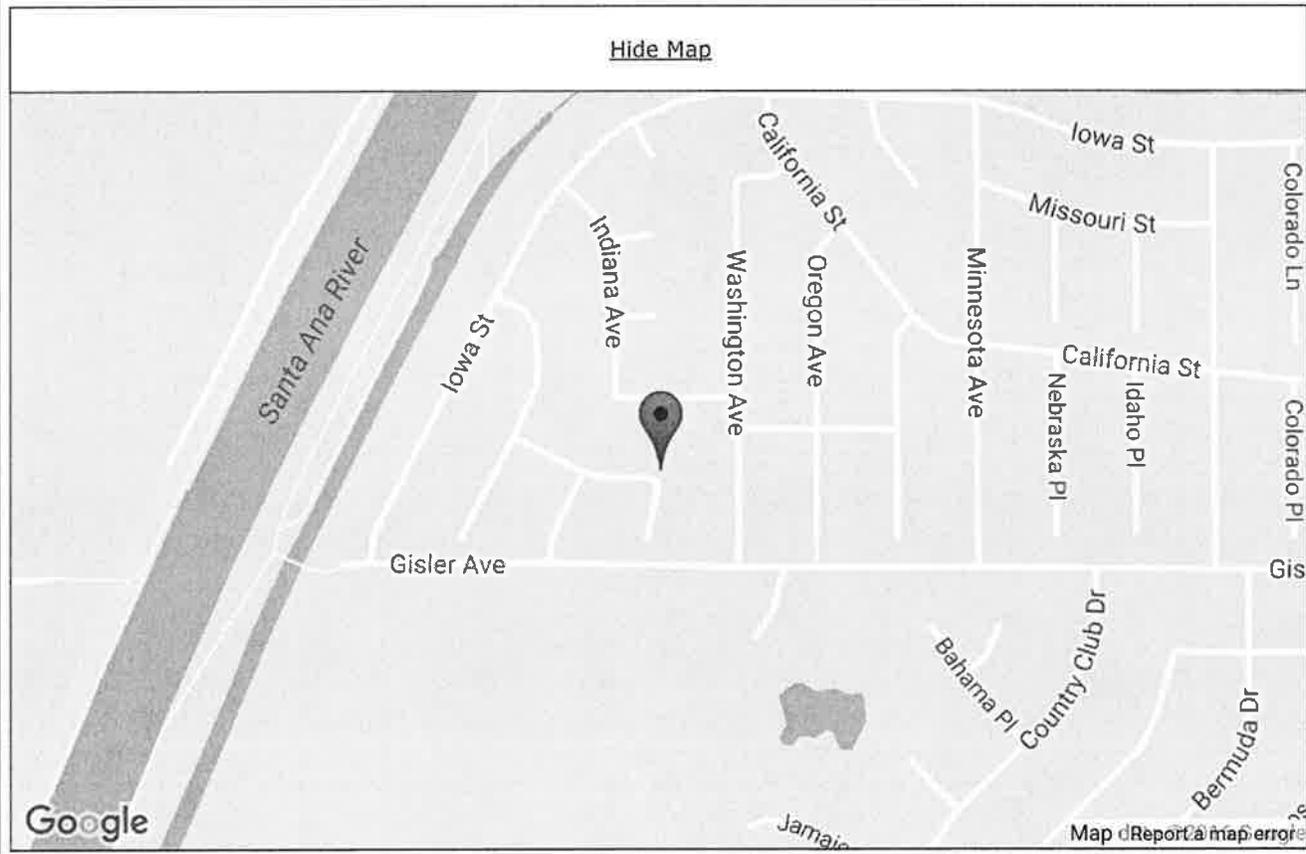
Denise Lindsay



Site Detail (33.687939590163,-117.93471174052)(WCA InventoryID: 2636811)

District	Address	Location	Species	DBH	Height
4	1850 NEW JERSEY ST	Front-1	<i>Lophostemon confertus</i> BRISBANE BOX	19-24	30-45
Condition	Maintenance	Removal Priority	Estimated Value	Parkway Type	Parkway Size
Good	Grid Trim	N/A	\$9,110	Parkway	5
Utility	Valid				
No	Yes				

Crew	Work Date	Work Type	Job # / Acct #	Amount
WCA	08/04/2016	Root Prune/18" RB Installation (BRISBANE BOX)	35178	\$366.00
WCA	02/13/2015	Grid Prune - 15% thinning	28318	\$46.00
WCA	04/08/2011	Grid Pruning	16780	\$46.60
WCA	07/16/2008	Grid Pruning	12656	\$46.60
WCA	07/12/2005	Grid Pruning	8470	\$41.50



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

Date Request Received: August 10, 2016
Name of Resident: Denise Lindsay Requesting Party: Same
Address: 1850 New Jersey St. Address: Same

Date Inspected: **August 12, 2016**
Inspected By: **Jim Ortiz**

Tree Species: **Brisbane Box (F-1)** Removal Cost: (DBH x \$ 20.30)= \$ **334.95**
Height: **35 Feet** Width of Sidewalk: **5 Feet**
Trunk Diameter: **16-5" Inches** Size of Right-of-Way: **10 Feet**

Health: Good Fair Poor Date of Last Pruning: **February 13, 2015**

Is the Tree a good candidate for Relocation? Yes No

Likelihood of survival: Good Fair Poor

Comments: **Transplanting of trees will removed 90%-95% of the root system.**

Concrete Damage: Yes No

If Yes, describe damage: **Sidewalk lifted behind tree.**

Can the Tree be Root Pruned: Yes No Date: **8/04/16**

Root Pruning Comments:

Date of Response to Resident: _____

Date Information Packet Mailed: _____

Photos Taken: Yes No Date Photos Taken: **8/12/16**

Photo #1: **Tree Looking East**

Photo #2: **Tree Looking West**

Photo #3: **Front of Tree**

Photo #4: **Base of Tree**











