

COMMUNICATION FROM CHAIR, PUBLIC WORKS AND GANG REDUCTION COMMITTEE relative to recommendations for various street tree pruning issues and tree trimming contractor cost and performance.

Recommendation for Council action:

INSTRUCT the Bureau of Street Services to:

- a. Report to the Public Works and Gang Reduction Committee:
 - i. Relative to the status of hiring the additional tree pruning crew and the level of productivity attained by the crew during the 2016-17 Fiscal Year.
 - ii. In 60 days relative to the results of the most recent multi-year tree pruning contract bid and award process.
- b. Establish a maximum allowable year-to-year cost increase for tree pruning, tied to the Consumer Price Index, in all future Request for Bids.
- c. Report with a plan to implement metrics to closely track and assess overall contractor performance, including how often contractors do not meet performance standards:
- d. Increase current tree trimming contracts from \$25,000 to \$50,000.
- e. Adopt a tree maintenance policy that includes dead tree removal in future grids that are bid out for tree pruning.

Fiscal Impact Statement: The City Administrative Office (CAO) reports that this action will not impact the General Fund.

Community Impact Statement: Yes

Against, unless amended: Greater Valley Glen Neighborhood Council

SUMMARY

In a report to the Mayor and Council dated October 21, 2016, the CAO discusses the frequency of street tree pruning and the use of street tree trimming contractors. According to the CAO, the use of City forces is 18 percent more expensive than contractors to perform the same amount of work.

Contractors are required to meet tree pruning standards set by the Bureau of Street Services. Failure to comply can result in suspension of work, nonpayment for unacceptable work, and cancellation of the contract. The Bureau does not, however, track how often contractors fail to meet the City's standards. Currently, there are no specific metrics for assessing the overall system. The CAO recommends that the Bureau develop a plan to implement metrics that would more closely track and assess overall contractor performance, such as tracking how often a

contractor does not meet performance standards.

The CAO also discusses tree trimming contract services, recommending that cost increases be capped and tied to any increase in the Consumer Price Index.

At the Public Works and Gang Reduction Committee meeting held October 24, 2016, the Committee Chair discussed this matter with a representative of the CAO. The CAO's representative reviewed the findings and recommendations of the aforementioned report.

Members of the public in attendance stated that residents should be notified in advance of scheduled street tree prunings. It was stated that contractor pruning should not be done during the summer and that their work is often ugly. Support was expressed for the development of metrics to track contractor performance and a recommendation was made for a five-year tree pruning cycle.

The Public Works and Gang Reduction Committee Chair recommended that Council approve the CAO's recommendation stated above.

Respectfully Submitted,



COUNCILMEMBER JOE BUSCAINO, CHAIR
PUBLIC WORKS AND GANG REDUCTION COMMITTEE

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
BUSCAINO:	YES
MARTINEZ:	ABSENT
PRICE:	ABSENT
O'FARRELL:	ABSENT
RYU:	ABSENT

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-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-