



## **Removal of Trees on City Property and Rights-of-Way by City Staff**

When City staff have determined that a tree on City property or right-of-way is to be removed the following procedures apply:

- 1) If the tree is an immediate threat or hazard, and staff determines it is a life safety concern, City staff should remove the tree as quickly and safely as practicable. No further action will be required.
- 2) If City staff believes a tree should be removed due its health, condition, location, or potential danger, City staff shall assess the tree, document the conditions necessitating removal by completing an ISA Level III Tree Risk Assessment and providing a brief narrative.
- 3) Trees slated for removal that meeting the following criteria will be independently assessed by an ISA certified, TRAQ qualified arborist.
  - a. Tree with a minimum of 50% healthy canopy; and
  - b. The tree's Diameter at Breast Height (DBH) is:
    - i. Ficus species: 16" or larger
    - ii. Oak: 16" or larger
    - iii. Mahogany: 16" or larger
    - iv. Black Olive: 16" or larger
    - v. Royal Poinciana: 16" or larger
    - vi. Bulnesia: 16" or larger
    - vii. Other tree species: 12" or larger

The City shall establish a pool of arborists through the City's procurement process and rotate through them as needed. The independent arborist should provide a written report, including completion of an ISA Level III Tree Risk Assessment, to the City within 30 days of engagement.

- 4) If the independent arborist agrees with the City staff's decision to remove the subject tree, staff will document the independent arborist's report and proceed. If the independent arborist disagrees with the City staff's decision to remove a specific tree, a second independent arborist will be selected from the same pool of approved arborists and provide an additional report to City staff within 30 days of engagement. The second independent report will be determinative.

## EXHIBIT A

- 5) Following the independent evaluation of the proposed tree removal, all trees slated for removal, including those not requiring an independent evaluation, will be documented in a monthly report which will be sent to the City Commission indicating which trees on City property or right-of way are slated for removal in the following two months.
- 6) Within 14 days of receipt of the report an individual Commissioner may request that the removal of a certain tree or trees be placed on the City Commission agenda for further Commission direction.
- 7) If at any time during this process City staff determines that a tree marked for removal or a tree being evaluated by an independent arborist, has become a life safety concern, City staff, with the approval of the City Manager or his/her designee, will remove the tree without further review.
- 8) This procedure provides no basis for an appeal for any alleged affected individuals, and all procedures and appeal rights provided for in Section 82-35(a) of the City Code remain unchanged.