



**City of Coral Gables
CITY COMMISSION MEETING
September 23, 2014**

F-2

ITEM TITLE:

Resolution. Tree Protection Directive.

A Resolution of the City Commission of Coral Gables, Florida, directing staff to require tree surveys and tree protection measures upon applications for Development Review Committee and Board of Architects, where applicable; directing staff to amend the City Code accordingly; providing for an effective date.

DEPARTMENT HEAD RECOMMENDATION:

Approval.

BRIEF HISTORY:

Currently, the Chapter 82 of the City Code of Coral Gables has extensive provisions governing tree removals and tree protection during construction. In an effort to place greater emphasis on the preservation and protection of existing specimen trees onsite and in the public right-of-way, it is important to identify specimen trees early during the site and architectural design of the project so that all efforts are made to preserve the specimen trees. Unfortunately, the current code provision and review process separate the building permit from the tree permit, making the preservation of trees an afterthought that sometimes results in the removal or inadequate protection of trees.

One way to address this deficiency is to require the submittal of a complete tree survey and tree protection measures when applications are submitted for Development Review Committee and Board of Architects, as detailed in the attached Resolution. During this review, the Board of Architects, the Development Review Committee and staff will have complete information to offer meaningful input as to the design of structures and site plans. This will hopefully bring to bear meaningful design solutions to structures and site plans that provide greater opportunities for specimen trees to continue to flourish in the City while still allowing development and redevelopment to occur.

Upon adoption of the Resolution, staff will take the necessary steps to propose an amendment to the City Code provisions to codify this requirement.

APPROVED BY:

Department Director	City Attorney	City Manager
		

EXHIBIT(S):

- A. Draft Resolution.