



**City of Coral Gables
CITY COMMISSION MEETING
July 7, 2015**

ITEM TITLE:

Resolution. Tree Protection Directive.

Resolution of the City Commission of Coral Gables, Florida, directing staff to require tree surveys and tree protection measures be a part of the applications for demolitions, Development Review Committee and Board of Architects, where applicable; directing staff to propose amendment to the City Code accordingly; and providing for an effective date.

DEPARTMENT HEAD RECOMMENDATION:

Approval.

PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD RECOMMENDATION:

Not applicable.

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 results in the removal or inadequate protection of specimen 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 demolitions, 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.

A similar Resolution came before you on September 23, 2014, as a result of Commission's directive to take measures to protect existing specimen trees; however, it related to applications for Development Review Committee and the Board of Architects. Staff believes it is imperative to include tree surveys and tree protection measures for demolitions as well.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION:

Date:	Resolution/Ordinance No.	Comments
09.23.14	Resolution No. 2014-200	Approved.

OTHER ADVISORY BOARD/COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION(S):

Date	Board/Committee	Comments (if any)
	Not applicable.	

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION(S):

Date	Form of Notification
	Not applicable.

APPROVED BY:

Department Director	City Attorney (If Applicable)	City Manager

EXHIBIT(S):

- A. Draft Resolution.