

AGENDA



Thursday, April 23, 2009

Item(s) to Set Public Hearing(s)
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION**Item No. 60**

Subject: Set a public hearing to consider an ordinance amending Chapter 25-8, Subchapter B, Article 1 of the City Code relating to protected and heritage trees. (Suggested date and time: May 14, 2009, 6:00 p.m. at Austin City Hall, 301 W. Second Street, Austin, TX.)

Fiscal Note: There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

For More Information: Pat Murphy 974-2821; Mitzi Cotton 974-2179

Boards and Commission Action: Recommended by the Planning Commission, Environmental Board, Urban Forestry Board, and the now disbanded Tree Task Force.

Prior Council Action: June 2005 Resolution adopting recommendations of Heat Island Mitigation Work Group; February 2006 Resolution establishing the Tree Task Force; June 2006 Resolution to study the Tree Task Force Recommendations

The proposed ordinance adds a classification of protected trees called Heritage Trees, removal of which is prohibited without a variance.

The proposed amendment creates a new classification of protected trees within the zoning jurisdiction of the City and provides clarification of existing tree protection requirements. Trees of superior species that are at least 24 inches diameter at four and one-half feet above the ground will be classified as Heritage Trees. Removal of a "Heritage Tree" is prohibited unless the owner of the property is granted a variance to allow removal. The amendment will provide a higher level of protection for the most significant trees in the community and will require a higher level of justification for their removal.