

AGENDA



Thursday, May 14, 2009

**Public Hearings and Possible Actions
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 62**

Subject: Conduct a public hearing and consider an ordinance amending Chapter 25-8, of the City Code relating to protected and heritage trees.

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 amends the City Code to (1) add a classification of protected trees called Heritage Trees, removal of which is prohibited without a variance, and (2) make changes to strengthen and clarify existing protected trees provisions.

The proposed amendment creates a new classification of protected trees within the zoning jurisdiction of the City and provides additional strength and clarification to existing tree protection requirements. Trees of superior species that are at least 24 inches in 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.