

Late Backup

ITEM C-27
BUDGET RIDER
CM LESLIE POOL and CM ALISON ALTER

DESCRIPTION:

This item would:

- Create a pilot “Tree Education” position with the City Arborist that would engage residents at schools, community events, and elsewhere on the value of trees and the importance of conservation; and
- Create the opportunity to use existing department funds to support two additional programs:
 1. TreeFolks and the Austin Tree Corps high-school-level youth job corps/environmental education intensive meant to bridge the tree watering, mulching, and staking/stake removal gap over the hottest of our summer months while providing environmental, financial, and career training to high schoolers meant to ease the transition into their college years; and
 2. Urban Forest Remove-and-Replace Program: A tree removal service for low-income homeowners that would provide removal of high risk trees by certified arborists at low rates negotiated by TreeFolks, paired with replanting of healthy young trees and education on care.

IMPACT:

This item would reduce the ending balance of the Urban Forest Replenishment Fund.

COUNCIL DIRECTION:

Council directs the City Manager to:

- Add 1 FTE with the City Arborist and fund that FTE using \$73,236 from the Urban Forest Replenishment Fund ending balance, contingent on the City Arborist reporting back to Council with a description of this position and the associated cost to the Urban Forest Replenishment Fund by the end of January 2018. Council directs the City Manager to consider the Watershed Protection Youth Education Program’s educational activities as a model when developing this Tree Education position.
- Work with the appropriate staff to utilize existing funding from the Urban Forest Replenishment Fund ending balance to support a high-school-level youth job corps/environmental education intensive meant to bridge the tree watering, mulching, and staking/stake removal gap over the hottest of our summer months while providing environmental, financial, and career training to high schoolers meant to ease the transition into their college years, and an Urban Forest Remove-and-Replace Program: A tree removal service for low-income homeowners (\$20,000) that would provide removal of high risk trees by certified arborists at low rates negotiated by TreeFolks, paired with replanting of healthy young trees and education on care. The total costs of these two programs combined should not exceed \$70,000.