

# REPORT

To the Honorable Mayor and City Council  
From the City Manager

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

November 23, 1998

### **Subject**

Street Tree Preservation and Sidewalk Repair Policy Goals

### **Recommendation**

By Motion:

- 1) Lift the City Council moratorium on street tree removals enacted December 1, 1997 and resume sidewalk repair and replacement work as soon as possible.
- 2) Accept the five policy goals (presented and discussed at the October 21 public workshop) developed by the City Council Street Tree Policy Task Force (Council members Ruskin, Hartnett and Ira). The goals are designed to better preserve street trees while repairing sidewalks.
- 3) Direct staff to proceed with implementation of the five policy goals on a trial/experimental basis from January 1, 1999 through June 30, 2000, utilizing existing budgeted funds (fiscal years 1998/1999 and 1999/2000).
- 4) Direct staff to prepare a report on the outcomes of the trial program, with cost analysis, performance effectiveness assessment, summary of citizen input and budget recommendations for Council consideration in the spring of 2000 for the next two-year budget cycle.

### **Issue**

How can street trees be better preserved while retaining an effective sidewalk repair program?

### **Major Findings**

The Task Force has drafted five Street Tree and Sidewalk Repair Program Policy Goals:

1. To preserve as many large, mature desirable trees as possible while providing for infrastructure stability and public safety on sidewalks and streets.
2. To proactively replant those street tree sites in which existing trees cannot be safely preserved AND increase planting in vacant planting sites. The goal is to plant more trees than are removed. Trees will be planted at the discretion of the City and the City will take responsibility for maintenance for the first two years.
3. To ensure that all trees planted are the largest species appropriate for the site. To accommodate that goal, sites will be modified to provide the largest planting area feasible.
4. Where trees must be removed, to phase the removals and interplant with new trees so that the impact of canopy removal on a street is lessened.
5. To foster citizen involvement and education regarding trees and sidewalks in their neighborhoods and to better notify them of work scheduled in their area.