



CITY OF MELROSE

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
*Administration-Engineering-Water-Sewer-Facilities
Parks-Forestry-Highway-Sanitation-Cemetery-Fleet*

Elena Proakis Ellis, P.E., BCEE
Director of Public Works

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MEMORANDUM

Date: June 2, 2022

To: Mayor Paul Brodeur

From: Elena Proakis Ellis, Director of Public Works

cc: Patrick Dello Russo, CFO/Auditor
Jim Troup, Deputy Director Admin & Finance
Joe Hobbs, DPW Operations Manager

Subject: Street Trees – Free Cash Request

Planting street trees is a priority for the Department of Public Works, both for aesthetics and for the positive environmental benefits of trees, such as reducing heat island impacts and furthering uptake of greenhouse gases contributing to climate change. The City does not have a line item in our budget for tree planting, and we rely on the allocation of retained earnings to keep up with our annual planting program.

Each time we remove a tree because it is unhealthy or has been damaged in a storm, we log in a work order for a replacement. On average, we record about 125 removal work orders per year. In addition, residents contact the City year round and request trees in front of their homes. Using the free cash allocated to trees last year, we have addressed requests up through April 2021 and are working on completing the remainder of 2021 requests.

The proposed \$70,000 allocation will allow us to meet the 2022 requests, to continue to stay caught up with our tree request list. At an average cost of approximately \$550/tree, we will be able to plant approximately 125 trees using these funds. This covers the cost of our on-call planting contractor to provide and plant a tree, along with the costs of police details and gator bags.

We respectfully request your consideration of this request. Thank you.