



## MEMORANDUM TO VENICE CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** Jim Yelverton, City Arborist

**DEPARTMENT:** Planning and Zoning Department

**THROUGH CHARTER OFFICER:** Edward Lavallee, City Manager

*[Handwritten signature]*  
E-SIGN:

**DATE:** March 2, 2023

**MEETING DATE:** March 14, 2023

**COUNCIL ACTION REQUESTED:** Presentation with Action Requested

**SUPPORTS STRATEGIC PLAN:** Goal One: Keep Venice Beautiful and Eco-Friendly

**SUBJECT / TOPIC:** Tree Planting Initiatives – Restoring our Canopy

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** The recent tree canopy study identified areas of the City where additional trees could be planted to increase the overall canopy. In addition, there was the unanticipated loss of trees resulting from hurricane Ian. In order to address these issues, multiple programs are being proposed to provide a comprehensive tree replacement plan for the City.

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The following tree planting initiatives are proposed to rebuild the City's tree canopy and educate the public on the benefits of trees. The tree planting drive would include two programs to provide trees to citizens of the City, a third program to revive the City's memorial tree program, and a fourth program to plant trees on City property. The funding source will be the Tree Mitigation Fund. The City has also been awarded a Florida Forest Service - Urban and Community Forestry grant that will go toward planting 70 trees in City parks. The expenditure of funds to implement these programs will not exceed the funding provided by these two funding sources. The following programs are being proposed:

1. Tree-Giveaway – Expanding the current tree giveaway program will provide the opportunity to offer more trees to City residents, free of charge. Currently the giveaways are held on Florida Arbor Day and Earth Day at the M.A. Arboretum. This proposal is to add another giveaway and increase the promotion of the events. The goal is to distribute 100 trees at a cost of \$20 per tree for a total cost of \$2000.
2. Adopt-a-Tree – This new program would offer trees, upon request, to citizens of the City to be planted adjacent to their property on City owned rights-of-way. The recipients would be asked to sign an agreement to care for the tree as their own. The City would purchase and plant the trees, and staff will monitor the trees, provide care instructions, and tree care advice. The estimated cost of this program is: 25 trees at a cost of \$750 per tree for a total cost of \$18,750.

3. Memorial trees – Promote the City’s memorial tree program for parks. This program currently exists and is administered by the Parks Division of Public Works. City residents can request to plant a tree in a City park to honor a lost loved one. The donation includes the tree, a memorial plaque, and the cost of planting. The Parks Department places the plaque near the tree and cares for the tree.
4. Planting City trees This proposal is to plant 70 trees in City parks. Planting locations will be coordinated with the Public Works Department focusing on areas where trees were lost. The estimated cost to this program is: 70 trees at a cost of \$750 per tree for a total cost of \$52,500.
5. A budget for miscellaneous advertising, logistical, and administrative cost \$2000.

If this proposal is approved, a request for a unit-price blanket contract with a local landscaping contractor to provide and plant trees will follow. This type of contract would provide the greatest flexibility to plant trees as needed. The contract trees would be for Adopt-a-Tree events and City replacement trees.

Per Chapter 89, Section 3.6.C. of the City’s code, City Council approval is required for expenditure of tree mitigation funds in excess of \$25,000. We respectfully request approval to utilize the current revenue collections and future collected funds from the Tree Mitigation Fund along with additional grant funding to implement the outlined tree planting programs.

In regards to Historic Downtown Venice, Engineering, Public Works, City Manager, and the City Arborist are developing a project to replace the loss of trees in the downtown. Multiple options and alternatives have been discussed and a bid package is being prepared currently to replace the trees that were lost during the hurricane. This work is planned to be performed over the summer, outside of tourist season.

- | Yes                                 | N/A                                 |   |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Document(s) Reviewed for ADA compliance <small>(required if for agenda posting)</small> |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | City Attorney Reviewed/Approval   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Risk Management Review  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Finance Department Review/Approval  |
|                                     |                                     | Funds Availability (account number): #117-1301-537.34-00                                |

Cc: Ed Lavalley, City Manager  
 James Clinch, Asst. City Manager  
 Kelly Fernandez, City Attorney  
 Linda Senne, Finance Director  
 Alan Bullock, Human Resources Director