



# Memorandum

To: Edward Lavallee, City Manager *EL 3/9/16*

From: John Veneziano, Public Works Director

Date: March 4, 2016

Subject: Resolution – 2016 Urban and Community Forestry Grant

## **Background:**

The City has over 6,000 trees in its parks, on city-owned properties and along its roads. The staff must assure that all these trees receive proper care, whether it be safety pruning, watering, pest management, disease control or fertilization. The City has not previously had an inventory of this important City asset. Trees provide environmental and aesthetic benefits to the community and make Venice a desirable place to live.

It is proposed to hire a consultant to prepare a tree inventory for the City using a combination of City and grant funding. The City has budgeted \$10,000 in FY16 that will be matched, if approved, with \$10,000 of funds through this Florida Department of Agriculture grant program.

The benefits of a tree inventory include:

- Provide a basis for a city-wide urban forestry program;
- Provide a tool for evaluating the health of public trees;
- Allow the City to measure benefits of its green infrastructure;
- Provide important information about tree distribution by species and genus within public areas;
- Provide information about distribution by tree size and age;
- Provide information regarding where trees may be needed;
- Provide information about tree condition;
- Improve safety and reduce liability;
- Justify budget figures for tree care;

## **Funds Availability:**

Funds are available for this project in account 001-0930-572.31-00

## **City Attorney:**

City Attorney has reviewed grant application and resolution.

## **Requested Action:**

Adopt a resolution supporting the application and committing the city share of funding for the project.