



## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MOTION 20160803 007c

**Date:** August 3, 2016

**Motion by:** Commissioner Hank Smith

**Seconded by:** Commissioner Linda Guerrero

**Subject:** Recommendation to City Council regarding requested staffing in the FY 2017 proposed budget for the City Arborist

### **RATIONALE:**

**Whereas,** the population of the City of Austin has increased at a phenomenal rate in the last years; and

**Whereas,** the population growth has increased the demand for new housing and commercial projects to meet the needs of the new citizens; and

**Whereas,** the Community Forest in Austin is sacred to its citizens and is in danger of being reduced and compromised as a result of the rapid growth of development; and

**Whereas,** in order to protect Austin's valuable and cherished trees, the City of Austin staff is required by law to support the code mandated requirements associated with Austin's Community Forest; and

**Whereas,** the increase in population has resulted in the need for the City of Austin to maintain adequate staff to support code mandated requirements associated with Austin's Urban Forest.

**Therefore be it resolved,** the Environmental Commission supports the City Manager's FY 2016/2017 proposed budget request for the appropriate staff and resources, including the request for four Full Time Employees within the Development Services Department, to support the code mandated requirements associated with Austin's Community Forest including:

1. Two Environmental Reviewers – reviewing development requests to ensure compliance with the City's tree regulations (e.g. tree preservation, mitigation requirements, protection standards during construction);
2. One Environmental Inspector – inspecting development sites to ensure compliance during construction (e.g. appropriate permitting, tree protection fencing, mulching, pruning standards, root care); and

3. One Community Information and Planning Manager – implementing requirements of Austin’s Community Forest Plan (e.g. reporting, operational plans, community outreach, staff training).

**VOTE 8-2**

For: Neely, Thompson, Guerrero, Grayum, B. Smith, Moya, Perales, H. Smith  
Against: None  
Abstain: None  
Recuse: None  
Absent: Maceo, Creel

Approved By:



Marisa Perales, Environmental Commission Chair