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OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

NO. LTC # **141-2011**

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LETTER TO COMMISSION
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TO: Mayor Matti Herrera Bower and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Jorge M. Gonzalez, City Manager

DATE: June 9, 2011

SUBJECT: Status Update of the Meridian Avenue Tree Trimming

The intent of this Letter to Commission is to provide you an update on the status of trimming of the Calophyllum trees on Meridian Avenue.

As you may recall, as the result of cold damage in January 2010, the large Calophyllum trees lining Meridian Avenue between 2nd St. and 16th St. have numerous dead branches that need to be removed for public safety and tree health. The damage to these trees and the Greenspace Management Division's strategy for addressing the damage was described in LTC #189-2010, dated July 6, 2010. Trimming of these trees was delayed until now in order to give the trees as much time as necessary to recover from the cold damage and produce new shoots.

A number of resident inquiries have been received about when these trees would be trimmed. The trimming of the Meridian Avenue Calophyllum trees is now scheduled to start on Monday, June 13, 2011, and will continue for approximately three weeks, depending on the weather. During this period it will be necessary to implement vehicle detours and designate "No Parking" areas for the block(s) where tree trimming is taking place. It is expected that:

- only one or two blocks of Meridian Avenue will be affected on any specific day;
- the detours and parking closures will be in effect from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM, and
- Individual blocks will be impacted by the detours and parking closures for one to three days, depending on the time required to trim the block's trees.

Parking closures are necessary to prevent damage to parked vehicles and to provide the trimming crew with access to the trees.

Letters notifying property owners of the parking closures are being mailed during the week of May 23rd to 27th, giving the owners at least a two-week notice of the planned closures. Notices will be posted in the neighborhood prior to implementing the parking closures. The Flamingo Park HOA has also been advised of this process and we will coordinate further with them as necessary.

The primary objective of this project is to restore the crowns of these trees as much as possible given the extent of cold damage. Damaged branches will be trimmed to a point where shoot growth is present or has been initiated. If a branch has no shoot growth, it will be trimmed back to live, healthy wood that has the potential to produce new shoots. This might leave some branch stubs in the crowns of the trees, but will provide a final opportunity for these branches to produce new shoots. Branches that are completely dead will be completely removed. It is also possible that several trees will need to be removed because of the severity of damage and lack of recovery.

As always, please let me know if you have questions, comments or concerns.

JMG/HMF/KS/JO/CL