

Date: July 1, 2024

To: Thomas B. Modica, City Manager *dm*

From: Eric Lopez, Director of Public Works *EL*

For: Mayor and Members of the City Council

Subject: **Modified Tree Grid**

The existing tree grid established over 25 years ago, was originally aligned with the Council Districts based on the 1990 census. Over the years, this grid has evolved into a tree maintenance program that has experienced delays due to resources being diverted to address “out of cycle” tree trimming requests, which have disrupted scheduled trimming activities. Over the past decade, out-of-cycle trimming accounted for 10 percent of all tree trimming activity, resulting in a 12-month delay in the scheduled trimming work for FY 23-24.

These issues are a result of tree maintenance activities being carried out simultaneously across the City and three different grids with an overwhelming number of trees. To address these challenges and delays, staff has updated the tree grid to better align with the current Council Districts. Four new tree grids have been added to better balance the number of trees per grid and the number of grids trimmed each year. The new grid system will require the contractor to trim six grids per year, leading to a citywide 6-year cycle for the 98,000 trees in our urban forest.

These changes aim to eliminate out-of-cycle tree trimming by reducing the number of trees in the four largest grids and minimizing the number of grids that span multiple Council Districts. This approach prioritizes having a single point of contact for each grid during the six-year cycle. Consequently, stakeholders will have a clearer understanding of the trimming schedule for their neighborhoods, know whom to contact for trimming queries, and the City will be better equipped to hold the contractor accountable for fulfilling their annual tree trimming commitments.

Enclosed is the revised 6-year tree trimming grid modification and schedule. It can also be found here: [PSB Tree Trim Grid - Google My Maps](#).

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Marc Wright, Public Services Bureau Manager, at (562) 570-2780.

ATTACHMENT

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