

CITY of ALBUQUERQUE

SEVENTEENTH COUNCIL

COUNCIL BILL NO. R-07-267 ENACTMENT NO. _____

SPONSORED BY: Isaac Benton

1 RESOLUTION

2 FOR A PERIOD OF SIX MONTHS, OR UNTIL THIS RESOLUTION IS EARLIER
3 WITHDRAWN, PROHIBITING ANY CITY EMPLOYEE OR ANY PARTY ACTING
4 PURSUANT TO A CONTRACT WITH THE CITY FROM REMOVING ANY TREE
5 ON CITY LAND OR UNDER CITY CONTROL WITHOUT THE WRITTEN
6 AUTHORIZATION OF THE CITY FORESTER; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

7 WHEREAS, on May 30, 2007, the Director of Family and Community
8 Services was contacted by a City Councilor and asked to explain the
9 reasoning behind her Department's actions in removing mature trees at the
10 Gonzales/Sunset Gardens Housing Development; and

11 WHEREAS, on June 4, 2007, the City Councilor contacted the City's Chief
12 Administrative Officer to request that the Director of Family and Community
13 Services attend the City Council meeting to explain her Department's actions
14 in removing mature trees; and

15 WHEREAS, the Director of Family and Community Services has failed to
16 explain the reasoning behind her Department's actions and the City's Chief
17 Administrative Officer declined to produce that Director at the City Council
18 meeting and has himself not subsequently explained the reasoning behind the
19 removal of mature trees; and

20 WHEREAS, the unexplained removal of mature trees is ongoing and is
21 reportedly intended to be repeated at other sites which are under the
22 ownership and/or control of the City; and

23 WHEREAS, the unexplained removal of mature trees on property that is
24 under the ownership and/or control of the City is causing great distress to
25 those residents of the City who have come to appreciate these trees; and

[+Bracketed/Underscored Material+] - New
[-Bracketed/Strikethrough Material-] - Deletion

1 WHEREAS, the removal of mature trees causes a decrease in shading and
2 an increase in the expenditure of energy to provide cooling, which contradicts
3 the City's adopted goals for energy conservation and sustainability; and

4 WHEREAS, there may be situations where the removal of mature trees on
5 property that is under the ownership and/or control of the City may be
6 appropriate and necessary, but the Administration's failure to provide any
7 explanation for its actions raises legitimate concerns about the policy or lack
8 of a coherent policy behind such removal.

9 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL, THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF
10 ALBUQUERQUE:

11 Section 1. That for a period of six months, or sooner if this resolution is
12 repealed by the City Council, no employee of the City of Albuquerque and no
13 contractor acting under a contract with the City shall remove any mature tree
14 on property that is under the ownership and/or control of the City.

15 Section 2. This resolution shall not apply to any mature tree as to which
16 the reason for removal has been explained to and approved by the City
17 Forester or to any trees that are part of City facilities managed and operated
18 by the Parks and Recreation Department.

19 Section 3. The City Forester is specifically charged with the authority to
20 approve removal or deny approval for the removal of any tree which is subject
21 to the provisions of this resolution.

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