

Code Amendment
Chapter 6 Health and Sanitation
Dead Tree Removal

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City Council Meeting
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Summary

- Question
 - City Council is being asked to approve an amendment to Chapter 6 Health and Sanitation to mandate the removal of dead trees from private property
- Options
 - Approve
 - Deny
 - Other
- Declaration
 - At City Council discretion

Purpose

- To consider amending the Health and Sanitation Code to require the removal of dead trees

Background/Purpose

- Current Code requires property owners to remove all weeds, high grass, down timber or brush, etc., but doesn't require property owners to remove dead trees & shrubs
- Dead trees present a hazard to the general public by possible damage from falling limbs onto homes, sidewalks, streets, vehicles, property, fences, the spread of Oak wilt and other tree diseases, and create a potential fire hazard
- Dead trees may also diminish the economic vitality of subdivisions & businesses by presenting an unkempt & aesthetically displeasing appearance

Proposed Amendment

- Adding bolded text to existing Section:
- “(a) It shall be unlawful for any person, or his agent, owning, renting or having under his control any lot or premises, whether vacant or improved, within the city, to permit the same to be covered, in whole or in part, with any weeds, high grass, down timber or brush, old logs, **dead trees or shrubs**, decaying vegetable matter, trash or trash piles, junk, scrap, open garbage, filth or debris whatsoever, and same are hereby declared to be public nuisances, a hazard and menace to public health, and fire hazards.”

Fiscal Impact

- Removing dead trees is costly & the larger the tree the more costly it becomes
 - Location of the dead tree may also add to the cost of removal (i.e., against a building, entangled in electrical or telecommunications wires)
- The property owners would be responsible for all costs for removal
- If a property owner doesn't comply after proper notification, the City would cause such removal & bill the owner
- If the owner doesn't pay, a lien would be filed against the property

Recommendation

- At City Council's discretion