



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF STRATEGIC PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
JOSEPH A. CURTATONE, MAYOR

Office of the Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone
FROM: Monica R. Lamboy, Executive Director 
DATE: January 13, 2011
SUBJECT: Authorization to Issue RFP for Contract in Excess of Three Years for CDBG Tree Planting Program

The Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development (OSPCD) respectfully requests that you forward to the Board of Aldermen a request to authorize the City to solicit and award a tree planting contract in excess of three years in accordance with Section 2-369 of the Somerville Code. The contract will be for one year, with two additional one-year options. Because each year of planting includes two subsequent years of watering, invoices could be submitted over the course of five total years.

BACKGROUND

Each year, the City uses a portion of its CDBG funding to plant trees in income-eligible areas of Somerville. Both the federal and state government strongly support this practice as trees capture air pollution, limit stormwater runoff and flooding, decrease heating costs, and improve overall quality of life. Location and type of tree plantings are determined by the City's Green Infrastructure Planner in coordination with the City's tree warden and DigSafe provisions. Decisions take into account resident requests, but are based primarily upon recommendations made by the City's contracted arborist, the Davey Resource Group and data collected during the City's first-ever comprehensive street tree inventory conducted last year.

In order to ensure optimal plantings and the highest possible survival rate of plantings in the difficult New England climate, the City issues an in-depth scope of work that draws upon the industry's best practices. Because watering and maintenance during the first three years post-planting often determine a tree's likelihood of long-term survival, the City's tree program calls for two subsequent summers of watering, as well as emergency response to periods of drought or intense heat. In order to receive the best possible value for taxpayers, the City is proposing to issue an IFB for one year of tree planting with two additional option years to be exercised by the City. Therefore, due to the subsequent two-years of watering associated with each planting, the total contract could be in place for up to five years.

RECCOMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of Aldermen authorize the Purchasing Department to solicit and award a contract for a term exceeding three years in accordance with Section 2-369 of the Somerville Code.

