




**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:** May 27, 2010

**SUBJECT:** Street Tree Mitigation requirement for Herb Chambers Mercedes Benz Dealership

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The purpose of this report is to request that the Board of Aldermen authorize the creation of a Street Tree Stabilization Fund for the purposes of accepting funds to replace and/or install street trees.

**BACKGROUND**

The Zoning Board of Appeals has recently approved a Special Permit application for some exterior alterations on the Herb Chambers Mercedes Benz dealership at 259 McGrath Highway. While OSPCD staff and the Zoning Board found the design to be an improvement to the building, the design significantly alters the exterior of the structure. As a way to reduce any potential visual impacts Herb Chambers of Somerville Corporation has donated funds to replace a dead street tree in the sidewalk in front of the dealership. The \$1,900 figure was established by OSPCD Transportation & Infrastructure Unit for the costs to cut, remove, purchase and install a street tree in this location.

We would like to respectfully request that the Board of Aldermen establish a Street Tree Stabilization Fund, accept the payment in the amount of \$1,900 from Herb Chambers Mercedes Benz, and appropriate the funds for the installation of a street tree in front of the business on McGrath Highway.