




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

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.