



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

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

September 17, 2010

Honorable Alderman Gewirtz
City Hall
93 Highland Avenue
Somerville, MA 02143

Re: Board Order #: 189612
Grant Funding for Tree Root Removal

Alderman Gewirtz:

Please be advised that OSPCD is in receipt of your Board Order #189612, dated May 27, 2010, which request research into grant programs for tree root removal.

OSPCD, in conjunction with DPW Engineering, researched the issue of funding residential sewer repairs. While some states offer financial assistance to residents, Massachusetts does not. The City will continue to explore options regarding this issue. Moreover, street trees are now selected, in large part, based on root systems that extend vertically rather than horizontally. This limits the disruption to both sidewalks and sewer systems.

If you have any further questions regarding street trees, please direct them to Rachel Kelly, Green Infrastructure Planner at rkelly@somervillema.gov or at extension 2516.

Respectfully,

MONICA R. LAMBOY
Executive Director

