



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
KATJANA BALLANTYNE
MAYOR
OFFICE OF STRATEGIC PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

THOMAS GALLIGANI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (ACTING)

LUISA OLIVEIRA, ASLA
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SPACE & URBAN FORESTRY

MEMORANDUM

To: City Council

Re: Item # 23-0298. Requesting approval to appropriate \$54,445 from the Street Tree Stabilization Fund for the 2023 Ash Tree Treatment Program.

Honorable City Council,

The City has approximately 1,000 publicly-owned ash trees. These trees are threatened by the invasive insect Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), which was first positively identified in Somerville in 2018. Once an ash tree is infested with EAB, it can die within just a few years.

In 2016 the City began a preventative treatment program to curb the loss of Ash trees. Through this program, we treat our healthy publicly-owned ash trees on a biannual basis (treating half of the trees each year). The treatment is only effective for two years, and thus to protect these trees from EAB indefinitely they need to continue to be treated on a biannual basis.

We are requesting \$54,445 from the Street Tree Stabilization Fund to finance this year's Ash Tree Treatment Program. Although this program is usually financed through the DPW Care of Trees line, this year there was insufficient funding in that line for all of the necessary tree work.

As the Street Tree Stabilization Fund can be used to pay for tree maintenance, we request approval to utilize these funds for this treatment that is keeping our healthy ash trees alive.

Please let me know if I can provide any additional information.

Sincerely,

Vanessa Boukili, PhD, MCA, MQTW, ISA TRAQ
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