



## MEMORANDUM

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Date: September 12, 2024

To: Honorable Mayor and Commissioners

Via: Todd Stoughton  
Interim City Manager

From: Katie P. Halloran  
Director, Planning Department

Subject: **File 24-5834 Presenting Tree Commission Resolution 24-02, Canopy Incentives**

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### **Introduction**

The Planning Department recommends that the City Commission carefully consider and take action to the requests as outlined by the Tree Commission through Resolution 24-02. These requests would function to support and improve the City's canopy coverage.

### **Background**

The City Manager requested that the Tree Commission provide a presentation to the City Commission. The City of Key West Tree Commission Chairman, Misha D. McRae, presented to the City Commission at the February 8, 2024, hearing. At that hearing Commissioner Kaufman requested that the Tree Commission provide specific budgetary and programmatic recommendations to the City Commission at their earliest convenience.

At their March 5, 2024, and June 4, 2024 hearings, the Tree Commission received public input and discussed future actions and investments that could improve tree protection and support environmental and strategic plan goals associated with the urban tree canopy, and the Tree Commission.

With support from the outgoing Urban Forestry Manager Karen DeMaria, and the Tree Commission attorney, Kendal Harden, the Tree Commission developed and approved Resolution 24-02, for consideration by the City Commission.

## **Procurement**

Tree Commission Resolution 24-02, Increasing Green Inventory of Canopy Trees, provides multiple recommendations and goals for City staff and City Commission consideration for the next fiscal year and for years to come. The resolution also acknowledges that the goals and recommendations cannot be done without the urban forestry division being adequately staffed to manage the goals and recommendations.

## **Recommendation**

The City Manager's Office recommends the Mayor and Commission consider Tree Commission Resolution 24-02. The Planning Department supports the Tree Commission's recommendations.

Exhibits:

Exhibit A – Tree Commission Resolution 24-02

Exhibit B – Tree Commission Staff Report