



THE CITY OF KEY WEST

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MEMORANDUM

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

TO: Jim Scholl, City Manager
Sarah Spurlock, Assistant City Manager
Greg Veliz, Assistant City Manager

FROM: Carolyn Sheldon, Senior Grants Administrator

DATE: May 4, 2015

RE: **Authorization to apply for and execute a Memorandum of Agreement with the State of Florida, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Florida Forest Service in response to Urban and Community Forestry Grant Bid # RFP/FFS 15/16-50**

ACTION STATEMENT:

This resolution will authorize the City to apply for and execute a Memorandum of Agreement with the State of Florida, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Florida Forest Service in response to Urban and Community Forestry Grant Bid # RFP/FFS 15/16-50.

BACKGROUND:

Urban and Community Forestry grants are administered by the Florida Forest Service and funded as part of a nationwide campaign by the USDA Forest Service. Eligible activities include, but aren't limited to, conducting community tree inventories, preparing urban forestry management plans, developing local tree ordinances, hiring temporary staff and purchasing urban forestry equipment. Such funding provides the necessary link between cities and Florida's natural resources, allowing even the most urbanized citizens to enjoy the benefits trees have to offer.

PURPOSE AND JUSTIFICATION:

The attached grant application is for a tree inventory and canopy mapping project to help the City set specific management goals and directives for an Urban Forestry Management Plan and will specifically help the City target specific areas in need of additional canopy. A resolution approved by the City Commission is required indicating support for the project. The project titled "*Keys Trees: Inventory & Assessment of the Subtropical Trees and their Canopy in Key West, Florida*" will:

- Document the species, height and health of every tree on City property.

Key to the Caribbean – Average yearly temperature 77° F.

- Create the first tree canopy map for the City of Key West
- Determine areas of inadequate canopy in order to increase canopy in these priority areas.
- Connect community tree donations with local underfunded landscape projects (i.e. Veterans Memorial)
- Increase efficiency of Urban Forester
- Increase community understanding of big picture and specific steps to protect tree canopy.
- Increase right tree, right place plantings community wide
- Reduce green-house gasses and island heat—promoting walkability

OPTIONS / ADVANTAGES / DISADVANTAGES:

1. The City Commission can authorize the City to apply for and execute a Memorandum of Agreement with the State of Florida, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Florida Forest Service in response to Urban and Community Forestry Grant Bid # RFP/FFS 15/16-50. This will allow the City to receive up to \$30,000.00 in grant funding to assist in the development of an Urban Forestry Management Plan and will specifically help the City target specific areas in need of additional canopy.
2. The City Commission can forgo the application. With this option, the City would not apply for up to \$30,000.00 in grant funding from the Urban and Community Forestry Grant program.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

With the authorization to apply for funding from the Urban and Community Forestry Grant program, the City could potentially receive up to \$30,000.00. The match for this funding is dollar for dollar and will be City Staff labor for hours worked on the project as well as a portion of the cost to upgrade land development regulations.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the City Commission select Option 1, authorizing the City to apply for and execute a Memorandum of Agreement with the State of Florida, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Florida Forest Service for Urban and Community Forestry Grant funding.