

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Office of the Chief Financial Officer

Natwar M. Gandhi
Chief Financial Officer



MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Linda W. Cropp
Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia

FROM: Natwar M. Gandhi [signature]
Chief Financial Officer

DATE: December 17, 2004

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement: "Urban Forest Preservation
Rulemaking Approval Resolution of 2004"

REFERENCE: Proposed Resolution Number 15-1167

Conclusion

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2005 through FY 2008 budget and financial plan to implement the provisions of the proposed approval resolution. No additional staff or resources will be required to implement the proposed municipal regulations.

Background

The proposed legislation would approve new municipal regulations to prohibit the removal, or remove by special permit Special Trees¹ located in the District of Columbia. The proposed municipal regulations require that a certified arborist determine whether a tree is eligible for Special Tree protections. The proposed rules make an exception for the removal of Special Trees when a person or property is in imminent danger, or when the Special Tree is interfering or disrupting utility activities.

The proposed new rules require that when a Special Tree is removed that a replacement tree is planted. The replacement tree is not required to be planted at the same location that the Special Tree was removed from.

¹ A "Special Tree" is a tree in the District of Columbia that has a girth of 55 inches or more.

The proposed rules require that a permit be obtained to remove a Special Tree. The permit's applicant will be required to pay an amount equal to \$35 per inch of girth of the Special Tree. These funds will be deposited into the Tree Fund.²

Financial Plan Impact

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2005 through FY 2008 budget and financial plan to implement the provisions of the proposed resolution. No additional staff or resources will be required to implement the provisions of the proposed resolution.

² The Tee Fund was established in the "Urban Forest Preservation Act of 2002"; D.C. Official Code Title 8 § 651.07; effective June 12, 2003.