

**CITY OF GAUTIER
MEMORANDUM**

To: Samantha Abell, City Manager
From: Patty Huffman, Grants & Projects Manager
Through: Chandra Nicholson, Director of Economic Development and Planning Dept.
Date: August 7, 2013
Subject: Resolution Allowing Removal of Protected Trees

REQUEST:

The Economic Development and Planning Department has been asked to submit a resident's request to City Council to remove two protected live oaks located next to the home that are causing property damage. Genetris Byrd at 5505 Hampstead Avenue has requested City Council authorization to remove a live oak in the back yard that has disturbed the home's foundation and a second tree that has impacted the sewer/water lines in the front yard.

BACKGROUND:

According to the Unified Development Ordinance 11.4.5:

The Economic Development Director shall issue a tree removal permit for a protected tree only upon Council adoption of a resolution finding a necessity for the removal of the protected tree(s). To determine whether a request warrants a finding of necessity, the Council shall consider the Comprehensive Plan, the intent of this ordinance to preserve protected trees, and also the following:

- A. Whether the continued preservation of the tree(s) places a significant hardship on the property owner; and
- B. Whether the continuation of the tree(s) would threaten public safety and welfare; and
- C. Whether all other options for preservation and/or relocation have been explored and found unsatisfactory.

DISCUSSION:

City staff has determined that the tree in the front yard is located 16' from sewer and water service tie-in points and has major visible roots within 6' of the water meter and sewer manhole. The resident has indicated that her sewer line is located under the roots. She has had problems in the past with the roots infiltrating the sewer service. The tree located in the rear of the property is located 8' from the corner of the house and 6' from a patio. See the attached photos.

RECOMMENDATION:

City staff defers to City Council as to whether these trees meet the above criteria for removal. The City Council may:

1. Adopt a resolution finding removal necessary of two protected trees at 5505 Hampstead Avenue based on the reasons above; or
2. Disapprove adopting a resolution to remove the protected tree as described above.

ATTACHMENTS:

Photographs of 5505 Hampstead Avenue