



*City of Arts & Innovation*

# City Council Memorandum

**TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL** **DATE: DECEMBER 8, 2015**

**FROM: PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT** **WARD: 5**

**SUBJECT: DONATION FROM THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF 147 PALM TREES FOR THE  
MEDIANS OF VICTORIA AVENUE BETWEEN TYLER STREET AND LA SIERRA  
AVENUE**

## **ISSUES:**

The issue for City Council consideration is to accept the donation of 147 Washingtonia Robusta palm trees from The Community Foundation to the City of Riverside to be planted within the medians of Victoria Avenue between Tyler Street and La Sierra Avenue.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

That the City Council accept the donation of 147 Washingtonia Robusta palm trees from The Community Foundation to the City of Riverside to be planted within the medians of Victoria Avenue between Tyler Street and La Sierra Avenue.

## **BACKGROUND:**

The Community Foundation, in consultation with Victoria Avenue Forever (VAF) and Frank Heyming, past Treasurer of VAF, have proposed a plan to plant Washingtonia Robusta palm trees (Palms) within the median areas of Victoria Avenue from Tyler Street to La Sierra Avenue with funds contributed from an anonymous donor(s). The funds were donated to The Community Foundation specifically for implementation of the project which would complete the Palm trees that currently line both sides of the medians of the Avenue from Myrtle Avenue to McAllister Street and will remain consistent with the heritage and historical goals of VAF. Once the Palms have been planted, they will become the property of the City and will be maintained and irrigated by the City. The project will include the planting of one hundred and forty-seven (147) Palms, relocation of some of the existing Ragged Robin roses and modification of the drip irrigation system to support the additional plantings.

The Community Foundation solicited proposals from various nurseries and landscape companies to provide and plant the required number of Palms with a minimum of six foot (6') brown trunks, to supply the necessary labor to properly relocate the Ragged Robin roses, modify the irrigation, and perform all work per City standards and specifications. Vendors were selected to perform the required work in the amount of \$43,127.64. The costs will be paid by The Community Foundation with the funds that were anonymously donated.

The proposed Palm planting will enhance the beauty of Victoria Avenue that was declared a Cultural Heritage Landmark #8 by the Riverside Cultural Heritage Board on June 11, 1969 and was added to the National Park Service's National Register of Historic Places in October 2000.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no fiscal impact to the General Fund for accepting the donation from The Community Foundation. The value of the donation is estimated to be \$43,127.64. Long term care for the palms can be included within the existing Public Works budget.

Prepared by:	Kris Martinez, Public Works Director
Certified as to	
Availability of funds:	Brent A. Mason, Finance Director/Treasurer
Approved by:	Al Zelinka, FAICP, Assistant City Manager
Approved as to form:	Gary G. Geuss, City Attorney