Request for City Council Committee Action from the Department of

Regulatory Services

Date:	July 12, 2007
To:	Council Member Samuels, Chairman
Referral to:	Public Safety and Regulatory Services
Subject:	Amendments to Chapter 347-Tree Servicers

Recommendation

Approve ordinance amendments to Title 13, Chapter 347, requiring ISA Certification or post-secondary degree in Forestry to obtain a tree servicer's license. Also, adding language that all tree servicing work must conform to ISA standards and require written contracts.

Presenters in Committee ~~(name, title)~~ Ricardo Cervantes, Deputy Director, Licenses and Consumer Services; Julie Casey, License Inspector, Licenses and Consumer Services; and Lorrie Stromme

Background/Supporting Information Attached

The Minneapolis Urban Forest Policy, adopted by the City Council on February 27, 2004. [The effective date of the policy is March 6, 2004.] established changes needed to the Minneapolis Tree Servicer's license. The pertinent part of the Urban Forest Policy provides:

3.4 An applicant for a Tree Servicing license in Minneapolis must provide proof that at least one employee of the tree servicing business is currently recognized by the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) as a Certified Arborist at the time of their license application or renewal. [Chapter 347 of the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances.]

3.4.1 Tree servicing companies must comply with American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Standard A300 when pruning or otherwise servicing trees on public or private property.

3.4.2 The practices of tree-topping and using spikes for anything other than tree removals or emergency rescues are prohibited as tree care practices on public or private trees.

The Minneapolis Tree Advisory Commission has recommended in 2006 and 2007 the establishment of qualifications for tree-servicing companies that do business on the City of Minneapolis. The purpose is to ensure that tree-servicing companies are familiar with responsible, safe tree-removal and tree-servicing techniques.

Additionally, Business License inspectors requested changes to the ordinance in order to effectively deal with resident's complaint regarding Tree Servicer. Specifically, that all tree service contractor would need to provide a contract to the homeowner outlining the work to be completed and the cost of the work. Inspectors regularly could not resolve a complaint due to the lack of written contracts. These complaints resulted in a "best" memory situation. Inspector were forced to refer residents to civil procedures. With written contracts, Business Licenses hopes to reduce the number of complaints due to miscommunication.

Prepared or Submitted by

Julie Casey, Inspector and Ricardo Cervantes, Deputy Director, Licenses and Consumer Services

Approved by

Date 7-12-07

Ricardo Cervantes, Deputy Director, Licenses and Consumer Services

Date 7/12/07

Burt Osborne, Director, Licenses and Consumer Services

Rocco Forte

Date 7/12/07

Rocco Forte, Assistant City Coordinator