



# MEMORANDUM

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**To:** Mayor and City Councilors  
**From:** Rich Olson, City Manager  
**Date:** July 3, 2013  
**Re:** Requested Report – N. Williams Circle Tree Removal

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Periodically, the City receives requests from property owners to have trees removed from public rights-of-way or private property when there is the potential for a tree removal company to come in contact with City power lines. When possible, the City's tree trimming crews will remove that part of the tree above the electrical lines, while the private company or City crews will remove the remaining part of the tree to the ground. The City does this approximately 30 times per year, sometimes more often due to storm damage. (Attached is a memo prepared by Karl Clow that provides a list of addresses where the City has recently done this.) The City has the capability to remove trees up to 65 feet high. Above that height, we contract with a private firm whose bucket height capability exceeds ours. In some cases, a crane may have to be utilized.

The City received a request from Mr. David Harris, who resides at 1101 Park Drive to remove two Loblolly Pine trees located near the intersection of Park Drive and North Williams Circle. The trees are approximately 80 feet tall and are above the City's power lines. Mr. Harris provided staff with a letter from Nate Cartwright (attached), a forester, which indicates that the trees show signs of dieback and the disease "Red Heart." Red Heart disease causes trees to die from the inside out. The roots of these trees have also caused damage to the street on North Williams Circle and Mr. Harris' driveway.

Like most Loblolly Pines, branches break off in high winds. Due to the height of the trees, three homes are within the fall zone of the trees. All three residences were contacted and have no problem with the removal of the trees. Due to the height of the trees, the City contracted with Bateman Tree Service to take the trees down. The cost to remove the trees is \$3,800, with an additional \$450 to grind the stumps. Mr. Harris has agreed to pay \$1,000 toward this cost to insure that the stumps are ground down, which will improve the flow of storm water in the ditch that runs parallel to his house.

Karl Clow made the determination that to insure the safety of all involved, the power lines would be taken out of service for a period of up to four hours. The affected customers were notified. A resident who would be affected by this

temporary outage has contacted members of the City Council requesting that the trees not be removed. I received a request from three City Council members to place this item on the July 8, 2013 agenda.

On the circuit, which City staff planned to take out of service, is an individual with special needs; and Karl Clow has designed a work around, which now only leaves Mr. Harris without power for four hours.

City staff followed our past practice on the removal of these trees and believes this to be an operational issue. There is a lot of pre-planning that goes into City staff's removal of trees this size. Customers have now been notified at least three times and Central Communications will also need to be contacted regarding the street closure.

RCO/vdw



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# MEMORANDUM

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TO: Rich Olson, City Manager  
FROM: Karl Clow - Electric Superintendent  
DATE: July 1, 2013  
REF: Electric Department assistance with removal and/or trimming of trees above power lines

This is a list of trees that were removed by the Electric Department for safety reasons:

Russell Ln	10 trees removed
Spence Ln	8 trees removed
Forest Hill Circle	7 trees removed
1716 Forest Park Rd	1 tree removed
1009 N. Poindexter St	1 tree removed
888 Shillington Rd	2 trees removed
Camellia Drive	5 trees removed
104 Sample Drive	2 trees removed
213 Claremont Ct	1 tree removed
118 Brantwood Drive	1 tree removed
2212 W. Main St Ext	1 tree removed
504 Jessup St	1 tree removed

This is a list of trees that were requested by Tree Arborist and/or customers to trim above the power lines for the safety of all parties:

1900 Providence Rd	2 trees trimmed
510 Bonner Dr	1 tree trimmed
2103 Shady Dr	6 trees trimmed
4 Tanglewood Dr	3 trees trimmed

100 Pineview Dr	2 trees trimmed
114 Dogwood Trail	1 tree trimmed
110 Dogwood Trail	1 tree trimmed
101 Emily St	3 trees trimmed

**Electric Department**  
**City of Elizabeth City, P. O. Box 347, Elizabeth City, NC 27907-0347**  
**Phone: (252) 337-6870 – Fax (252) 338-2558**