



City of Annapolis
Office of Environmental Policy

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 18, 2018
TO: Annapolis City Council
FROM: Jacqueline Guild, Director, Office of Environmental Policy (OEP)
RE: \$5,000 Appropriation to OEP for Unanticipated Tree Removal

On March 9, 2017, the City sent a notice to the owner of 26 Fleet Street that a nuisance tree was located on the property (per City Code section 14.12.190) and was required to be abated (per City Code section 14.12.200). The notice required that the tree be removed by March 31, 2017. Subsequently, the City Arborist held several unsuccessful meetings with the property owner regarding removal of the tree. During the ensuing year, the condition of the tree deteriorated further and branches began to break from the tree landing on neighboring properties. The City Arborist opined that the tree was compromised to the point that it could fall during a storm event.

City Code section 14.12.200 paragraph B states that “[i]f the owner or tenant refuses or neglects to comply with the terms of the written notice within thirty days after receiving it, the department shall abate the nuisance and the expense of abatement shall be a charge and lien upon the real property on which the tree or shrub is located, to be collected in the same manner, and bear the same interest and priority as real property taxes.”

The City of Annapolis removed and abated the nuisance tree during the first week of August 2018 and paid a contractor \$5,000 for this work. Prior to the removal, the property owner was notified of the dates the work would be performed and that she would be billed by the city for the costs of removal.

By letter of August 15, 2018, the property owner was informed that per the city code the tree had been removed and that \$5,000 for removal and abatement was now due to the city. To date, no response was made to this letter and no reimbursement has been received by the city. On October 17, 2018, the Office of Environmental Policy referred the matter to the Office of Law for collection.