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| MEETING DATE |
| January 8, 2018 |
| Subject: Resolution - Tree Protection Preemption |



AGENDA REPORT

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| AGENDA |
| Section: Decisions |
| Item #: 1 |

Department/Office:
Administration

Requested Action or Motion: Move to enact a resolution opposing the passage of Senate Bill 574 and House Bill 521 which would preempt local tree protection ordinances.

Summary Explanation & Background:

Senator Greg Steube (District 23- representing Sarasota County and parts of Charlotte County) filed Senate Bill 574 *Tree and Timber Trimming, Removal, and Harvesting*. SB 574 and its identical companion bill in the House, HB 521 filed by Representative Katie Edwards-Walpole (District 98 - representing Davie/Plantation area of Broward County), would preempt to the State the regulation of the trimming, removal, or harvesting of trees and timber on private property; prohibit local governments from prohibiting the burial of vegetative debris on certain properties; and prohibit local governments from requiring mitigation, including the replanting of trees or payment of a fee for the removal of trees.

Maitland has for many years had a strong and effective tree protection ordinance designed to protect and enhance the tree canopy within the City. The Ordinance encourages the protection of healthy trees replacement of removed tree to achieve the minimum canopy coverage established as a goal in the Comprehensive Development Plan. The City's tree protection regulations provide reasonable and sensible exemptions, including removal of prohibited species and dead or diseased trees, among others. Since 2010, the City has successfully obtained the Arbor Day Foundation's Tree City USA designation, highlighting the City's commitment to urban forestry, community improvement and trees as a vital asset in the City's infrastructure.

Tonight, staff is recommending the City Council enact the attached resolution in opposition to SB 574 and HB 521 and direct the City Manager to distribute the resolution to the appropriate legislators.

Fiscal Impact:

N/A

Exhibits: RESOLUTION Tree Protection Preemption
Jan 2018 (DOC)
SB 574 Florida Senate 2018 (PDF)

Contact Person: Sharon Anselmo, City Manager

Commission/Board:

Phone #: 407 539-6221

Reviewed by City Attorney

Yes N/A

