



City Council Report

Date: January 11, 2018
To: City Council
Through: Karolyn Kent, Assistant City Manager
From: RJ Zeder, Transportation Director
Gordon Haws, Deputy Transportation Director
Subject: Decorative Tree Lighting Policy

Purpose and Recommendation

To provide a more standardized process to identify criteria, necessary approvals, and responsibilities of the City of Mesa and the owner of the property on which decorative tree lights will be installed, staff recommends the adoption of a formal Decorative Tree Lighting Policy. Formal adoption will then allow staff to use the policy to evaluate future decorative tree lighting requests.

Refer to Appendix A for the Decorative Tree Lighting Policy.

Background

The Transportation Department completed one decorative lighting project in 2015 at the Hilton Phoenix/Mesa Hotel, and will complete another installation at East Valley Institute of Technology in FY17/18.

Based on the Sustainability and Transportation Committee's recommendation, potential tree lighting projects under this policy will be limited only to public entities, such as other governmental agencies or publicly-funded and operated educational institutions, going forward.

Discussion

For this policy, decorative tree lighting refers to lighting placed on existing trees located on the property of another governmental agency or publicly-owned and operated education institution. Decorative tree lighting is not meant to offset lighting requirements that the property owner is otherwise required to install or achieve for walkways or roadways.

The proposed policy will provide staff with criteria they can follow when future requests for decorative tree lighting projects are received. Decorative tree lighting projects that have been approved by the City Council prior to the implementation of this policy shall be permitted to move forward into design and construction.

The proposed policy will require that all amendments and/or deviations be approved by the City Manager or his/her designee. This will ensure compliance and consistent application within the City of Mesa.

Staff seeks Council's approval of this policy.

Alternatives

If the City Council chooses not to approve this policy, staff would recommend not approving any future decorative tree lighting installations.

Coordination

The Sustainability and Transportation Committee reviewed the proposed policy at their November 2, 2017 meeting, and concurred with staff's recommendation to approve its adoption, provided future tree lighting projects are limited to public entities.

Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact to adopting this policy; however, costs associated with the design and construction of a decorative tree lighting project would have a financial impact that would vary by location and project scope.