

# **TOWN OF PALM BEACH**

## **Information for Town Council Meeting on: September 13, 2018**

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TO: Mayor and Town Council

VIA: Kirk W. Blouin, Town Manager

FROM: H. Paul Brazil, P.E., Director of Public Works

RE: Relocation of Historic/Specimen Tree from 520 Island Drive

DATE: August 27, 2018

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### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Town staff requests that Town Council offer guidance concerning the removal and relocation of the historic/specimen ponytail palm at 520 Island Drive.

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

There are one hundred and two (102) trees on the island that have been designated as historic or specimen trees. These trees are inspected annually by the Town Arborist and are registered to the property by the Palm Beach County Clerk of Courts. Section 126 of the Town Ordinance deals with all aspects of the care, trimming, and maintenance of these trees. Section 126-58(a) states that no tree may be moved except after a hearing and approval before the Town Council.

Town staff has been contacted by the landscape architect representing the owners of the residence at 520 Island Drive regarding the possible relocation of the historic/specimen tree at that location. The tree is a ponytail palm and is on the west side of the property approximately ten feet (10') from the edge of the property. The owners have requested permission to relocate the tree to the southeast corner of the property. The Garden Club of Palm Beach, the Town Arborist, and Town staff have reviewed the proposed location and support the requested relocation. If the relocation is approved, the Town Arborist will monitor the transplanting process and inspect the health of the palm on a monthly basis for the first six (6) months and during the annual historic/specimen tree inspection.

The Town ordinance requires the replacement of any historic/specimen tree that does not survive the transplanting process to be replaced with two (2) trees of equal size and all parties agree this would be applicable to this relocation request.

### **FUNDING/FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no fiscal impact regarding this request.

### **TOWN ATTORNEY REVIEW**

The Town Attorney has reviewed and approved for legal form and sufficiency.

cc: Josh Martin, Director of Planning, Zoning & Building Department  
Eric B. Brown, P.E., Assistant Director of Public Works/Operations  
Brett Madison, Facilities Maintenance Division Manager  
Sugar Thebault, President, Garden Club of Palm Beach  
Richard Maxwell, Town Arborist