



Thomas R. Bellegarde
Assistant City Manager/Public Works Commissioner

To: Kevin J. Murphy, City Manager

From: Thomas R. Bellegarde, Assistant City Manager/Public Works Commissioner

Date: January 23, 2019

RE: Council Motion of 11.1 8/22/2017 C. Leahy

Req. City Mgr. Provide A Report To Council Regarding National Grid Tree Trimming Throughout The City

The City of Lowell Department of Public Works and National Grid work closely together as it relates to tree trimming that affects the utility wires throughout the City. Work is identified and communicated back and forth on three levels.

First, National Grid provides a fluid 5-year preventive maintenance plan to the DPW Street Division's Tree Specialist that addresses trimming to be completed around their distribution wires. Normally, the Specialist meets with National Grid on-site to determine the full scope of work and to inspect work at its' completion. National Grid is responsible for the notifications to the residents in the work zones. The DPW continually requests that National Grid notify us for all work as it is scheduled. There are times we are reactive to their work and must remind National Grid to make us aware of their schedule.

The second level of communication is requests that go directly to National Grid from concerned residents. National Grid has a "hotline" to report tree issues. Once scheduled, the DPW will be notified to meet and to determine the responsible party for the requested trimming. Final inspections are performed to ensure a complete job.

Lastly, the DPW has a direct contact with National Grid to identify and to communicate any work, both emergency and preventative, and to coordinate all trimming/removal efforts.

Please feel welcome to contact me with any questions you may have on this matter.