

RESOLUTION NO. _____
 PASSED _____

A resolution of the City Commission of the City of Gainesville, Florida, declaring a tree emergency in the urban forest due to the imminent threat of destruction of pine trees by infestation of southern pine beetles; adopting an emergency pine beetle suppression program; and providing an immediate effective date.

WHEREAS, the City Arborist and the State of Florida Division of Forestry have identified a large population of southern pine beetles within the urban forest of Alachua County, including the City of Gainesville; and

WHEREAS, southern pine beetles can kill a pine tree in a matter of days; and

WHEREAS, the City of Gainesville is designated a Tree City USA, and contains thousands of pine trees; and

WHEREAS, the City Arborist and the State of Florida Division of Forestry have witnessed the infestation and destruction of hundreds of pine trees within the corporate limits by the southern pine beetle, and they believe that thousands of pine trees are currently under threat and at risk; and

WHEREAS, dead pine trees create fuel build-up as well as falling branches and trunks, thus creating an immediate and imminent threat to property and lives, thereby creating a danger to the public health, safety and welfare of the community; and

WHEREAS, the City Arborist and the State of Florida Division of Forestry concur that the best method to prevent further destruction and loss of pine trees is the immediate removal of trees infested by the pine beetle; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission finds that it is in the interest of the public health, safety and welfare to immediately remove pine trees that are actively infested by the southern pine beetle to prevent further destruction and loss of pine trees within the City of Gainesville;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA:

1. The City Commission declares a tree emergency in the urban forest of the City of Gainesville, Florida.

2. The City Commission approves the Emergency Southern Pine Beetle Suppression Program ("the Program"), a copy of which is attached to and made a part of

1 this resolution, and calls upon all citizens to participate in the Program and to cooperate in
2 the removal of trees infested by the southern pine beetle.

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4 3. The City Manager is authorized to purchase goods, supplies and materials
5 necessary to implement the Program and the Purchasing Policies of the City are waived to
6 that extent. Disaster Funds of the City are appropriated for this Program. The tree
7 emergency, the Program and the authorization shall end at 11:59 p.m. on November 15,
8 2001, unless extended or terminated by resolution of the City Commission.

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10 4. The City Manager is authorized to make application to the U.S. Forest
11 Service and the State of Florida Division of Forestry to seek grants and aid to offset the
12 costs and expenses of the City in implementing this program.

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14 5. The City Commission calls upon Alachua County and the cities in Alachua
15 County to monitor the infestation of the southern pine beetle in their communities and to
16 take all steps necessary to control the infestation.

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18 6. This resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

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20 **PASSED AND ADOPTED** this _____ day of _____, 2001.

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26 PAULA M. DeLANEY
27 MAYOR

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29 ATTEST:

Approved as to form and legality

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33 KURT M. LANNON
34 CLERK OF THE COMMISSION

MARION J. RADSON
CITY ATTORNEY

City of Gainesville

Emergency Southern Pine Beetle Suppression Program

- * The City will immediately undertake a public education campaign to inform citizens about the Southern Pine Beetle Suppression Program.
- * The City will seek grants and aid from the Florida Division of Forestry and U.S. Forestry Service and any other governmental agency for any eligible expenses and costs to the City.
- * The City will undertake the removal of infested trees from City-owned properties including parks and rights-of-way immediately.
- * Through Section 30-254(h), the City Manager will waive the permit requirements for trees infested with Southern Pine Beetles provided the Florida Division of Forestry has verified the Southern Pine Beetle infestation in said trees. This authorization will expire with the expiration of the program.
- * The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Forestry, will identify the presence of Southern Pine Beetles in pine trees in Gainesville, marking and listing each infested tree and informing the property owner.
- * Property owner must contact the City within 48 hours (two business days) and execute the City's contract to participate in this program. Property owners will be charged one-half the City's direct cost for cutting and spraying of each infested tree. The City will be responsible for the remainder of the cost.
- * Cutting of infested trees will begin after property owners have signed a contract prepared by the City Attorney. Trunks and stumps will be sprayed with insecticide. No part of the tree will be removed from the site by the City. The homeowner should take immediate action to properly dispose of treetops and trunks.
- * The City may implement a mandatory compliance program for those owners who failed to remove infested trees.

1 b) Providing short-term and long-term estimates of impact of southern
2 pine beetle population suppression.

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4 c) Enumerating the advantages and disadvantages of southern pine
5 beetle population suppression.

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7 d) Determining the best management practices to suppress southern
8 pine beetle populations and minimize the impact of southern pine beetle
9 damages.

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11 e) Recommending to the City Commission, Alachua County, the State
12 of Florida and the federal government the best solution(s) for suppression of
13 southern pine beetle populations with due consideration given to
14 sociological, economic and biological aspects of the problem.

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16 f) Considering any other matters related to the southern pine beetle
17 suppression program.

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20 5. The Committee shall be automatically sunset two years after its first
21 meeting, unless dissolved sooner by resolution of the City Commission.

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23 6. This resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

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25 **PASSED AND ADOPTED** this _____ day of _____, 2001.

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31 PAULA M. DeLANEY
32 MAYOR

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34 ATTEST:

Approved as to form and legality

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36 _____
37 KURT M. LANNON
38 CLERK OF THE COMMISSION

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MARION J. RADSON
CITY ATTORNEY

GAINESVILLE TREE ADVISORY BOARD

April 19, 2001 Minutes

The meeting was convened at 4:10 PM in the Parks Division meeting room. Present were:

Dr. Ed Gilman, Tree Advisory Board (TAB)
Noel Lake, TAB
Bob Simons, TAB
Wayne Dixon, Director of the Division of Plant Industry (DPI),
Dr. Jim Meeker, State Entomologist, DPI
Dr. John Foltz, Entomologist, University of Florida
Dave Conser, Forester, Division of Forestry

The Division of Plant Industry representatives explained their perspective on the impending outbreak of Southern Pine Beetle (SPB) infestations in Alachua County. Salient points:

Hernando County experience: They were at the same point Alachua County is now. They chose to do nothing. As a consequence 1.5 million trees were killed by SPB and 5,000 acres were infested. Many of these trees were on small properties (yards). The standing dead trees soon became a great danger. Many fell into roads, downed utility lines, and hurt people. The fire risk has been greatly exacerbated. After the consequences became apparent, they did institute a program to remove dead trees, and they now must remove far more than they would have if they had acted immediately to suppress the infestation. The removal contract went to Asplundh, and the cost of removals is \$75 for an 8" tree with varying prices up to \$500 for a 30" pine.

They hope the City will undertake a suppression program that includes providing the option to homeowners of having a government contractor remove infested trees from private property. Time is of the essence, because the sooner a suppression program is instituted, the sooner the infestation will be brought under control, and the fewer trees that will be lost.

Loblolly Pine is the preferred food source for Southern Pine Beetle. While this particular species of pine is not particularly valuable in the urban forest, if the infestations go unchecked, then other, more desirable species are attacked. Then besides losing loblolly pines, other desirable species like Longleaf, Spruce, Pond, and Slash Pines will become infested.

DPI will urge the City of Gainesville to put as many resources as possible at this problem.

During the last infestation (1994-1995 – 18 months), 42,000 pines were removed through the Suppression program in Alachua County. 8,000 were residential trees, 2,000 from businesses, and 32,000 from forestry and wood lots.

DPI records showed that only 450 infested pines were removed by the GRU contractor during the '94-'95 outbreak. This is a very small percentage of all the trees removed. Having this option available acted as a ceiling on escalating prices for removals by private contractors.

They estimate that half the susceptible trees in the greater Gainesville area will be killed if the infestation is allowed to proceed unchecked.

The Tree Advisory Board asked Meg Niederhofer how many susceptible pines occur on the public right-of-way. The '93 Urban Forestry Tree Assessment information suggests about 3,400. If half of these were to die, how much time would the tree crew spend removing dead pines? I estimated each bucket truck crew could average 7/day, which converts to 61 weeks of work for one crew to do nothing but this.

The Tree Advisory reviewed the costs to the City from the '94-'95 Suppression and noted that unreimbursable/unrecoverable costs were \$36,063, and that although the government program was available, only 452 trees were removed via this option within the City limits with the City therefore sharing the costs. Many more of the removals were in the greater Gainesville area.

They asked DPI officials whether this infestation looked to be as severe as the previous and were told that it could be worse.

After those not on the Board departed, the Board members passed the following motion (Simons; Lake second; unanimous).

The Tree Advisory Board advises the City Commission to institute a Southern Pine Beetle Program as soon as possible. They reviewed the Resolution passed by the City Commission on May 13, 1994, and favored updating the wording, except indicating the precise details of the GRU contractor participation because this infestation situation may require changes in costs, insecticide applications, etc. The Board is of the opinion, however, that offering citizens the option of having the trees removed from their property by a City contractor is essential to the success of the suppression effort. Further, the Board believes that the City Commission should relax ordinances governing tree removal for trees documented by the Division of Forestry as being infested with Southern Pine Beetle. They also encourage participation in educating the public as completely as possible about this threat.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Simons

You have reached the City of Gainesville Southern Pine Beetle Suppression Hotline. The City Commission declared an emergency in the urban forest because an epidemic threatens to destroy pine trees throughout Gainesville. If you think your pine tree may be infested and you might wish to participate in the City's cost/share program, here's the procedure:

1. Call the Division of Forestry at 955-2239. A forester will visit your home to confirm that your tree is infested with Southern Pine Beetle.
2. The forester will mark infested trees with a red "X", which indicates these trees are eligible to be cut down through a City cost/share program. The forester will then authorize a contract whereby you would pay \$110 and the City will pay \$110 to have a contractor cut down and spray each infested pine. The pine tree will be taken down, the trunk cut into pieces 5 to 7 feet long, and both the pieces of the tree and the trunk are then sprayed with the insecticide, Dursban. Once the infested pine has been cut down and treated with insecticide, it can no longer spread the infestation. Removing the trunk pieces, crown and stump will be your responsibility.
3. You must either sign the contract while the forester is at your house or, within 2 business days of the forester's visit, deliver a signed contract to the billing office on the 3rd floor of City Hall.

If you require further information about this program, call 334-2171 or 334-3600, ext. 6034.

