



**CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO**  
**OFFICE OF THE CONTROLLER**

**Ben Rosenfield**  
**Controller**

**Todd Rydstrom**  
**Deputy Controller**

August 15, 2016

Mr. John Arntz  
Department of Elections  
City Hall, Room 48  
Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

RE: Proposition E – Charter amendment regarding responsibility for maintaining street trees and surrounding sidewalks

Dear Mr. Arntz,

Should the proposed charter amendment be approved by the voters, in my opinion, it would significantly increase the cost of government.

The proposed amendment would require general fund contribution to a newly created fund, the Street Tree Maintenance Fund, of \$19 million beginning in fiscal year (FY) 2017-18. This fund would be used to pay for City services to maintain street trees as of July 1, 2017. The cost to the City in FY 2017-18 would be \$13.5 million as the City has already budgeted \$5.5 million for these services.

In subsequent years, contributions to the fund would be adjusted by the aggregate change in the City's overall discretionary revenue. The City would be able to temporarily suspend the required budget increases in any year in which a general fund deficit of \$200 million or more was forecast.

This proposed amendment is not in compliance with a non-binding, voter-adopted city policy regarding set-asides. The policy seeks to limit set-asides which reduce General Fund dollars that could otherwise be allocated by the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors in the annual budget process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ben Rosenfield".

for Ben Rosenfield  
Controller