



City of Bowie

2614 Kenhill Drive
Bowie, Maryland 20715

MEMORANDUM

TO: Bowie City Council
FROM: Gary G. Allen, EAC Chairman
SUBJECT: BGE Next Steps
DATE: December 10, 2009

Background

I. Tree Reimbursement Policy

BGE policy states "BGE will provide reimbursement of up to \$100 per tree, for the replacement of any tree greater than 8 inches in diameter (measured at 4-1/2 feet above ground level) that is removed by BGE from maintained areas of your property (lawn areas) as part of the Bowie Electric Reliability Action Plan."

EAC estimates that nearly all the trees tracked in BGE report are eligible for reimbursement. BGE data indicates that only trees above this size are tracked.

II. Actual Reimbursement

Based on BGE submitted Reports on Bowie Reliability Action Plan as of 11-19-09 nearly 13,000 trees have been removed. BGE has issued reimbursements for approximately 1463 tree vouchers and a total of 6566 tree vouchers have been offered. If all vouchers offered had been reimbursed then BGE would pay out an additional \$510,300.

III. Proposed Action

To date using only BGE numbers about 22% of those trees BGE Reports as eligible have been reimbursed. EAC estimates the actual number of eligible trees could be double this.

We call to Council's attention that BGE has budgeted for the ELIGIBLE claims as part of the Bowie Electric Reliability Action Plan thus unreimbursed claims represent a potential cost saving to the company and a potential loss to homeowners and the community.

MAYOR G. Frederick Robinson **MAYOR PRO TEM** James L. Marcos

COUNCIL Dennis Brady ♦ Diane M. Polangin ♦ Isaac C. Truth ♦ Todd M. Turner ♦ Geraldine Valentino-Smith **CITY MANAGER** David J. Deutsch
City Hall (301) 262-6200 FAX (301) 809-2302 TDD (301) 262-5013 WEB www.cityofbowie.org

Memo from EAC re: BGE Reimbursement

EAC Motion Passed Unanimously by EAC at the November Meeting

The EAC requests that the Council seek direct reimbursement to the City for all unclaimed reimbursements based on all eligible tree removals as of the conclusion of the present reimbursement program.

We further strongly recommend that these funds be set aside as a "Community Greening Fund" for future use as incentive payments for tree planting on residential property. EAC will propose a plan for this purpose in 2010 when the above-identified funds become available.

We further suggest staff ask BGE the following questions: a) of the \$25 million dollars plus allotted for the Bowie tree removal/electricity delivery improvement system, how much of those monies were allocated for Bowie residents to get reimbursed for trees removed on their private property? b) Of BGE's completed tree removal/electricity delivery improvement systems in other communities, what were the dollar amount projected and subsequently paid out to residents for trees removed on private properties? c) In these like communities, what percentage of the monies allocated for tree reimbursement for residential trees removed was claimed?

These questions are important base line questions because we expect BGE to reject a Council request for all unclaimed reimbursements. In Bowie's case, approximately \$500,000. The data developed above will then allow comparison to any similar programs whether by their own estimated allotment in budgeting the Bowie project or to comparable programs in other cities.