

RESOLUTION NO.: R-2015-083

Supporting the Commitment to Continue Working Towards Undergrounding Columbia's Utilities

WHEREAS, the City of Columbia (hereinafter "City") has expended a tremendous amount of resources toward undergrounding utilities throughout the City of Columbia for over a decade and understands its value to visual aesthetics and increased property values; and,

WHEREAS, the Columbia Tree and Appearance Commission has identified undergrounding utilities as a strategic step towards beautifying our city and opening up more areas to plant grand trees; and,

WHEREAS, the City supports the concept of undergrounding utilities throughout the City of Columbia; and,

WHEREAS, the City recognizes the importance of undergrounding utilities when determined to be feasible; and,

WHEREAS, the City is committed to supporting and working with partner agencies to identify opportunities in order to maximize resources and seek innovative opportunities; and,

WHEREAS, the City recognizes that undergrounding utilities involves the coordination of multiple utility companies, can be costly, and shall be evaluated on a case by case basis based on the utilities located along a particular route or project area; and,

WHEREAS the City has partnered with SCANA for over a decade and has fully utilized the non-standard service fund available in the franchise agreement and is committed to continuing to maximize this funding source; and,

WHEREAS, the City supports the concept of identifying a dedicated funding source for undergrounding utilities and is committed to discussing this opportunity during each budget cycle while searching for grants and other opportunities; and,

WHEREAS, the City will monitor other communities that have been innovative and successful in undergrounding programs; and,

WHEREAS, the City has and will continue to evaluate current ordinances and codes to identify additions or changes that can aide in facilitating the undergrounding of utilities throughout the City of Columbia; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, this 1st day of September, 2015, that the Mayor and City Council of the City of Columbia support the commitment to continue working towards undergrounding Columbia's utilities.

Requested by:

Assistant City Manager Gentry

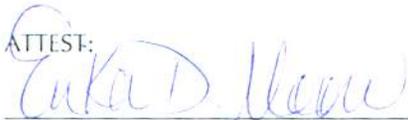

Mayor

Approved by:


City Manager

Approved as to form:


City Attorney

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Introduced: 9/1/2015
Final Reading: 9/1/2015

ORIGINAL
STAMPED IN RED