



CITY OF MOUNT VERNON, N.Y.  
DEPARTMENT of PUBLIC WORKS

SHAWYN PATTERSON-HOWARD  
*Mayor*

City Hall, One Roosevelt Square  
Mount Vernon, NY, 10550  
(914) 665-2300 – Fax: (914) 665-2476

DAMANI L. BUSH  
*Commissioner*

ROBERT L. HACKETT  
*Deputy Commissioner*

September 23, 2025

Honorable City Council Members  
The City of Mount Vernon  
Mount Vernon, New York  
(Through the Office of the Mayor)

Re: Emergency Tree Removal – Dead Oak Trees along MacQuesten Parkway

Dear Honorable City Council Members,

**BACKGROUND**

I am writing to urgently request the City Council's approval to authorize the City to enter into an emergency contractual agreement for the removal of several dead oak trees that are over 100+ years old along MacQuesten Parkway. This request is critical to protect public safety, as multiple large trees along this heavily traveled corridor have died and/or now hollow inside posing an imminent risk of falling, endangering motorists, pedestrians, and nearby properties. The soil in this area has also deteriorated due to the sloped incline which has now exposed the roots and additional danger. Attached are several photographs from the most recent tree that abruptly came down and damaged a nearby vehicle.

Given the proximity of these oak trees to a major vehicular corridor, their removal is classified as an emergency public safety action. The situation meets the definition of an *emergency purchase* under Section 6(B) of the City's procurement policy, as delay in addressing these conditions would expose residents, motorists, and municipal property to severe risk of injury and damage.

**SCOPE OF WORK**

- Location: MacQuesten Parkway
- Work Required:
  - **Tree Removal:** Rigging, sectional takedown, and complete removal of ten (10) dead or hazardous trees, including trunks, branches, and canopy.
  - **Stump Grinding:** Mechanical grinding of each stump to a depth sufficient to allow for backfill and restoration below finished grade.
  - **Debris Management:** On-site chipping of branches and brush, cutting and removal of trunk wood, and full removal of all wood chips and grindings from the worksite.
  - **Site Restoration:** Backfilling of stump cavities with clean soil and leveling to surrounding grade.



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Quotes were solicited from qualified tree service vendors, and the following proposals were received:

- **D&D Tree Service** – \$56,800 (10 trees removed, grind stumps below grade, remove all chips and debris)
- **Michael Serrio** – \$65,000 (same scope of work)
- **Atlas Tree Service** – \$62,450 (same scope of work)

After review, the Department of Public Works has determined that **D&D Tree Service, at \$56,800**, represents the lowest responsible cost for this emergency work.

**PROCUREMENT POLICY**

**Section 6. Items Excepted from these Policies and Procedures by the City Council.**

**B. Emergency Purchases.** For purpose of this section, an emergency refers to an occurrence that presents an immediate threat to public property, the life, safety, health, welfare or property of residents or the public, or threatens to curtail or terminate an essential service to residents or the public. Due to the nature of this exception, these goods or services must be purchased immediately and a delay in order to seek alternate proposals may threaten the life, health, safety, property or welfare of the residents or City of Mount Vernon.

**FUNDING**

The total associated cost for this emergency tree removal is **\$56,800.00**

Funding for this emergency work will be made through – A8560.439 (Shade Trees & Planting)

Respectfully,

Damani L. Bush  
Commissioner of Public Works  
DLB

Cc: City Engineer  
Arcadis of New York  
File