Recommendations from the Municipal Tree Advisory Board Regarding Keeping Our City Trees Safe from Pests June 2017

The members of the Municipal Tree Advisory Board are seriously concerned about the threats to the trees in our city from a variety of pests. Through the work of Victor Lucero, we have become aware of the danger to our trees from the pests detailed in the attached report. Climate change is creating effects that will bring added stresses to our trees, plus warming winters now make it possible for formerly unseen pests like ash whitefly to persist in Santa Fe. At a time when the benefits provided by a healthy urban forest are more important than ever, it is important that we do everything possible to keep these threats under control.

To this end, it is critical that the Parks Department have all the resources needed to pursue a vigorous program of control for these pests, using all the methods and tools available in an integrated pest management approach. We urge the members of PARC to do everything in their power to inform the governing body of the challenges our trees are facing and the need to act quickly on this issue.