

ITEM #37⁽³⁾

**ADDITIONAL MATERIAL
10:00 A.M.**

PUBLIC HEARING

MAY 8, 2018

**SUBMITTED AT THE REQUEST OF
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION and
GROWTH MANAGEMENT
DEPARTMENT**



May 7, 2018

The Broadview Park Civic Association is thanking Broward County for the efforts taken to ensure our neighborhood will be safe and recover quickly after impacts by major storm systems. We understand the necessity of maintaining a safe landscape and avoid friction with power lines.

The proposed ordinance "Tree Maintenance near Power lines" however, as currently written, does not find our full approval due to the following concerns and clarifications needed:

1. Shifting financial responsibility from Florida Power and Light to residents. Our neighborhood is considered vulnerable within the county, with many low income and retiree households not able to handle the financial impact this proposed ordinance will bring.
2. Costs of complying with the proposed ordinance for existing trees are much higher than described. Many trees have been planted decades ago, not by current home owners and removing/relocating them will cost 4 to 5 times the amount proposed as assistance by the county.
3. While trimming of existing trees might find financial assistance through the proposed fund in the first year, homeowners will be required to upkeep the trees in the subsequent years at their own cost and it will have to be performed by a licensed contractor instead of themselves, proving a financial burden.
4. Where is money for the fund coming from? How will the approval process work? Will a homeowner be properly preapproved before starting work at their own cost and then being told the fund ran out of money?
5. Who and how will it be determined what was existing and what is new growth?
6. Will a homeowner be required to send a new letter to the power line owner every year if an existing tree will require more than 20% trimming or will one notice be sufficient?

As far as we know Florida Power and Light are the owners of all grids in Broadview Park. As sole provider of energy they are responsible for maintaining the power lines, transformers and utility poles in our neighborhood and survey their safety and functionality periodically. It seems logical that they will also keep the responsibility of maintaining trees around their lines instead of shifting that responsibility to home owners. While FP&L workers have been prevented from doing so in the past, as homeowners would not give them access, the ordinance should rather deal with these aspects and impose fines to homeowners who will not comply, instead of burdening homeowners who did comply with those maintenance efforts in the past.