



City of New York Parks & Recreation



New York City Council
Committee on Parks & Recreation

Introduction 674A requiring the city of New York to prune trees, bushes and other vegetation that obstruct traffic control signals or devices

March 12, 2008

Testimony by
Liam Kavanagh, First Deputy Commissioner

Tree pruning, removal and replacement of street trees are the leading types of calls by citizens to 311 on Parks-related issues, as well as the number one issue raised in emails and letters. We support this legislation and appreciate the Council's work to draft a bill which represents a realistic timeframe in which to deal with a variety of tree pruning issues.

Following the guidelines set out under this new legislation, Parks will inspect a complaint of a tree blocking a traffic signal within four days of receiving notice. If action is needed Parks will prune the tree in ten days when it is blocking a *select* traffic control device or traffic control signal and twenty days when a tree is obstructing a traffic control device. In assessing each situation, we will prioritize the most hazardous conditions to ensure that they are rectified early than less hazardous conditions.

In addition, the Parks Department will maintain a log that records the date and time such notice was received, the date and time on which such location was inspected, and the date and time when such tree, bush or other vegetation was pruned or the date and time of a determination that the tree did not require pruning.

Trees are a critical aspect to the "greening" of our City and therefore we are happy to be addressing safety concerns in concert with increasing the urban tree canopy in New York City.