



## LETTER TO THE COMMISSION

**LTC No: 26-051**

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and Members of the Fort Lauderdale City Commission  
**FROM:** Rickelle Williams, City Manager *RW*  
**DATE:** March 3, 2026  
**SUBJECT:** **Tree Maintenance on the Las Olas Shops Median**

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The purpose of this Letter to the Commission (LTC) is to provide notification that two (2) black olive trees located in the Las Olas median near SE 10 Terrace are at a high risk of failure. During the week of March 9, 2026, the eastern-most tree will be removed while the adjacent tree will be pruned to reduce its risk of failure.

At the January 20, 2026, City Commission Conference Meeting, City staff and representatives from WSP, the City's consultant, provided an update on the Las Olas Mobility Western Corridor design efforts (CAM #26-0050). This presentation included discussion on the health of the fifteen (15) black olive trees in the median near the Las Olas Shops. Chen Moore and Associates performed a Tree Risk Assessment with the goal of identifying, analyzing, and assessing the current risk to adjacent property and people posed by the potential failure of an entire tree or a tree component. The assessments were based on a timeframe of two (2) years and normal weather conditions (i.e., typical, daily storm events with winds below fifty (50) miles per hour). The risk assessment identified that the potential consequences of trees impacting structures were significant. This risk assessment builds on condition assessments previously provided by the City's Urban Forester in 2017, 2019 and 2023.

Tree number thirty (#30) and tree number twenty-nine (#29) are the two (2) eastern-most trees on the median. In 2023, the City's Urban Forester identified tree #30 as in decline and tree #29 in fair to poor conditions. In the time between the City's condition assessment and the 2025 Chen Moore and Associates risk assessment, these two (2) trees have declined and are now identified as having a high risk of failure. Tree #29 had an initial high-risk rating, but it can be reduced to moderate risk with the removal of dead branches to lighten the canopy. Tree #30 received a risk rating of high. Mitigation measures, such as canopy pruning, could not reduce the risk level below high due to the presence of major decay at the base of the tree. As such, tree #30 needs to be removed and tree #29 requires pruning to reduce the weight of the canopy to move this tree into a moderate risk category.

On Wednesday, February 18, 2026, City staff met on-site with community advocates to provide them with an arborist's perspective on why these two (2) trees require the prescribed maintenance.

The City's Strategic Communications Department has developed messaging that will be distributed through a variety of communication channels to notify the public of these actions in advance of the maintenance work.

The maintenance and removal work will take place the week of March 9, 2026. In the early morning, City crews will temporarily close one (1) direction of travel at Las Olas Boulevard and SE 9 Avenue at a time for about one (1) hour, starting with the eastbound lane, then switching to the westbound lane. Drivers should expect brief delays and consider using an alternate route during the early morning hours.

### **Trees Identified in Risk Assessment**



Tree #29, a twenty-one inch (21") diameter black olive tree within a raised planter, facing southeast. This tree was identified in the 2025 Chen Moore and Associates Risk Assessment rated as having a high risk of failure. Pruning of the canopy will reduce the stress on the trunk and move the tree into the moderate risk category.



Tree #30, a twenty-three inch (23") diameter black olive tree within a raised planter, facing north. This tree was identified in the 2025 Chen Moore and Associates Risk Assessment as having a high risk of failure. This tree needs to be removed because of the safety concern.

For further information on the maintenance work, please contact Carl Williams, Parks and Recreation Director, at [cwilliams@fortlauderdale.gov](mailto:cwilliams@fortlauderdale.gov) or 954-828-5804.

- c: Shari McCartney, City Attorney
- David R. Soloman, City Clerk
- Patrick Reilly, City Auditor
- City Manager's Office
- Department Directors