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SOUTH END

## Two illegal street tree removals prompt Boston officials to issue warning

Posted by Matt Rocheleau May 23, 2013 12:34 PM

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By Matt Rocheleau, Town Correspondent

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After two different contractors illegally removed street trees in the South End,

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city council several a reminder to wardens warning that removing street trees without review or approval from Boston's tree warden is prohibited and will lead to fines.

Within the past two months, city officials noticed that two trees next to 518

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160

317

41

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Tremont St. and two others at 451 Marlborough St. had been unlawfully removed, according to Jacquelyn Goddard, a spokeswoman for the Boston Parks and Recreation Department.

In each case, city officials believe contractors working on construction projects at each location took down the trees, she said.

Because the contractors did not have city approval prior to removing the trees, they are responsible to pay the full replacement costs of the trees plus an additional fine, which typically amounts to three times the replacement cost, Goddard said.

“Street trees on public property are protected by Massachusetts General Law Ch. 87, and may not be cut down without a public hearing and authorization by the city tree warden,” the parks department said in a reminder this week.

Permission to legally remove street trees can be sought.

The process includes: submitting a request and site plans to the city parks commissioner and tree warden; a city site inspection to determine tree size,

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