



**REQUEST FOR COMMISSION ACTION**  
**CITY OF INDEPENDENCE**  
**January 24, 2019**

Department         Park        

Director Approval Barbara Beurskens

**AGENDA ITEM**    Approve and sign Tree City USA Proclamations

**SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION**    Approve Request

**BACKGROUND**    On February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016 The City Commission approved Ordinance # 4214 creating a Tree Board to honor the City’s rich history of enjoying and preserving local natural resources, and to promote and protect the public health, safety and general welfare by providing for the development of a Community Forestry Plan to address the planting, maintenance and removal of trees located on public property, or which encroach upon public property, and to enhance the natural beauty of the community.

One of the goals of the Tree Board was to apply for certification as a Tree City USA. The Tree Board has been working with Tim McDonnell, who is the Community Forester Coordinator for South Central Kansas. He has approved our application and has sent it for approval to the Arbor Day Foundation. The board has conducted one Arbor Day Celebration on Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup> at the park. This year’s Arbor Day is scheduled on April 27<sup>th</sup> at Riverside Park.

The Commission approved the USA Application, however, we failed to sign a proclamation for 2018, and need to sign one for 2019 in order to complete our application.

**BUDGET IMPACT**    None

**SUGGESTED MOTION**    I move to proclaim April 29, 2018 and April 27, 2019 as Arbor Day in Independence.

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**    2018 & 2019 Proclamations



*Whereas,* In 1872, J. Sterling Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special day be set aside for the planting of trees, and

*Whereas,* this holiday, called Arbor Day, was first observed with the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska, and

*Whereas,* Arbor Day is now observed throughout the nation and the world, and

*Whereas,* trees can reduce the erosion of our precious topsoil by wind and water, cut heating and cooling costs, moderate the temperature, clean the air, produce life-giving oxygen, and provide habitat for wildlife, and

*Whereas,* trees are a renewable resource giving us paper, wood for our homes, fuel for our fires and countless other wood products, and

*Whereas,* trees in our city increase property values, enhance the economic vitality of business areas, and beautify our community, and

*Whereas,* trees, wherever they are planted, are a source of joy and spiritual renewal.

*Now, Therefore, I,* \_\_\_\_\_, Mayor of the City of  
\_\_\_\_\_, do hereby proclaim  
\_\_\_\_\_ as

# Arbor Day

In the City of \_\_\_\_\_, and I urge all citizens to celebrate Arbor Day and to support efforts to protect our trees and woodlands, and

*Further,* I urge all citizens to plant trees to gladden the heart and promote the well-being of this and future generations.

*Dated this* \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor \_\_\_\_\_