



**Mike McGinn, Mayor**  
City of Seattle

July 21, 2011

Matt Mega  
Urban Forestry Commission  
c/o Sandra Pinto de Bader  
City of Seattle, OSE  
PO Box 94729  
Seattle, WA 98124-4729

Dear Mr. Mega,

Thank you for your June 10, 2011 letter on behalf of the Urban Forestry Commission expressing concern about the risks trees on 4th Avenue resulting from pruning and other measures to accommodate the Seafair Torchlight Parade.

I share your concern about the health of Seattle's trees and the importance of preserving them, as well as planting new trees to increase our canopy.

Over the last several years, the Torchlight Parade officials have asked us to prune or tie back trees to accommodate balloons during the parade. We have accommodated their requests, but as you state, we have also told them that this practice is not good for the long term health of the trees.

We will be working with them to find a better solution before next year's parade that does no further damage to the trees. Regarding your concern about the cost for pruning, we have notified Seafair officials that we expect them to cover the full cost of the pruning and tie back effort.

Thank you again for contacting me to let me know about the Commission's concerns.

Sincerely,

Mike McGinn  
Mayor of Seattle

MM/rcd