

## SEATTLE URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION

**Weston Brinkley** (Position #3 – University), Chair • **Sarah Rehder** (Position #4 – Hydrologist), Vice-chair  
**Steve Zemke** (Position #1 – Wildlife Biologist) • **Elby Jones** (Position #2 – Urban Ecologist - ISA)  
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**Joshua Morris** (Position #7 – NGO) • **Blake Voorhees** (Position # 9 – Realtor)  
**Neeeyati Johnson** (Position #10 – Get Engaged) • **Whit Bouton** (Position #11 – Environmental Justice - ISA)  
**Jessica Jones** (Position # 12 – Public Health) • **Shari Selch** (Position # 13 – Community/Neighborhood)

August 5, 2020.

Nathan Torgelson, Director  
Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections  
700 5<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Seattle, WA 98124

RE: Fee-in-lieu research project

Dear Director Torgelson:

The Urban Forestry Commission (UFC) would like to extend its gratitude to the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections (SDCI) for its continued work to enhance tree protection through the development of a fee-in-lieu program, and specifically to Kym Foley for her thoroughly researched efforts and her clear presentation on the work to the UFC.

A fee-in-lieu program would provide the City with needed funding to carry out provisions in the current code (SMC 25.11). The code already establishes that whenever an exceptional tree (or any tree 24" in diameter at standard height or larger) is removed during development, it needs to be either replaced on site or elsewhere in the city. City government will need to have funding to support tree planting and establishment to mitigate for tree canopy loss and to re-direct planting efforts on public property; especially on BIPOC communities.

The UFC acknowledges the need to place important work on hold as the City continues to pivot to re-deploy staff and re-allocate resources to respond to this unprecedented crisis and serve Seattle's most impacted populations. Given this, the UFC appreciates SDCI's continued work on

urban forestry items, especially as Seattle's urban trees' air cleaning service comes to the forefront given the link between air pollution and COVID-19 vulnerability.

The UFC is glad to support SDCI's fee-in-lieu considerations for the City's tree regulations update effort moving forward. The UFC enthusiastically invites Kym Foley back to give a final report once her work is complete. The UFC looks forward to supporting that final product.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background. The signature is cursive and appears to read 'Weston Brinkley'.

Weston Brinkley, Chair

cc: Mayor Jenny A. Durkan, Council President Lorena González, CM Lisa Herbold, CM Debora Juarez, CM Andrew Lewis, CM Tammy Morales, CM Teresa Mosqueda, CM Alex Pedersen, CM Kshama Sawant, CM Dan Strauss, Jessica Finn Coven, Michelle Caulfield, Mike Podowski, Chanda Emery, Kym Foley, Urban Forestry Management Team, Urban Forestry Core Team, Yolanda Ho, Paúl Quiñonez Figueroa

Sandra Pinto de Bader, Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator  
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