

Seattle Urban Forestry Commission

Weston Brinkley, Chair • Joanna Nelson de Flores, Vice-Chair
Tom Early • Megan Herzog • Craig Johnson
Sarah Rehder • Andrew Zellers • Steve Zemke

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DRAFT

January 3, 2018

Dear Mayor Durkan,

Congratulations on a successful election campaign!

The Urban Forestry Commission (UFC) was established to advise the Mayor and City Council concerning the establishment of policy and regulations governing the protection, management, and conservation of trees and vegetation in the City of Seattle.

One of our guiding documents, the City's Urban Forest Stewardship Plan, speaks to the many benefits that Seattle's urban forest provides to our economy, environment, and human well-being. It is the Commission's intent that future generations continue to enjoy these benefits. However, we need new policy and administrative adjustments to ensure these values.

Last November, the Commission issued a letter commending then Mayor Burgess for issuing Executive Order 2017-11 (EO) strengthening tree protection in the city. EO 2017-11 directs City Departments to improve departmental coordination, strengthen enforcement, and adopt new rules and regulations to improve and expand protections for Seattle's urban trees and canopy coverage (letter attached). A SDCI and OSE project team conducted research to determine the tree protection effectiveness of current regulations. The project team put together recommendations that informed the EO which included consideration of a tree removal permit system. The UFC has been recommending a tree removal permit system since its inception in 2009, and applauds the City's effort.

We encourage you to continue the deliberative process to consider implementation a permit system to further support Seattle's canopy cover, tree protection, and tree preservation.

The Commission invites you to attend one of our meetings to discuss your agenda for Seattle's urban forest and how we can be of assistance as you develop the goals for your administration and on an ongoing basis.

We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,