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Michelle Caulfield
Interim Director
Office of Sustainability & Environment

Sharon Lerman
Interim Deputy Director
Office of Sustainability and Environment

Dear Michelle and Sharon,

Congratulations on your new roles at the Office of Sustainability & Environment (OSE)!

The Urban Forestry Commission (UFC) advises 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. The UFC works closely with OSE and appreciates the staffing and logistical support it receives from your office and the leadership you bring to the City's Interdepartmental Urban Forestry Team.

Seattle's urban forest is among the most diverse in the country and provides many benefits to human well-being, our environment, and our economy. It is the Commission's intent that future generations continue to enjoy these benefits and more.

Since its establishment in 2009, the UFC has recommended updating city code regarding tree removal and replacement. Progress has been slow and halting. In 2019, Seattle City Council and the Mayor declared their intent to consider strategies to protect trees and increase Seattle's tree canopy cover in [Resolution 31902](#), which included direction to SDCI and OSE to submit updated tree protection legislation for consideration by Council by the end of 2020. The UFC has regularly participated in small group deliberative sessions and issued policy recommendations to support the development of new regulations. The UFC is glad to continue to support SDCI and OSE and looks forward to working with you on regulations, and other key efforts such as a new canopy cover assessment, that will ensure a healthy, growing, and protected urban forest for all.

The UFC invites you to attend its meetings at any time and will be pleased to offer its expertise and assistance to your office however it is able.

Congratulations again on your new roles.

Sincerely,