

SEATTLE URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION

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November 13, 2019

Mayor Jenny A. Durkan and Seattle City Council
Seattle City Hall
600 4th Ave
Seattle, WA 98124

Re: Resolution 31902 - Development and implementation of a revised tree ordinance

Dear Councilmembers and Mayor Durkan,

The Urban Forestry Commission (UFC) thanks you for passing [Resolution 31902](#) declaring the City Council's and the Mayor's intent to consider strategies to strengthen protection for trees and Seattle's urban forest as well as increasing the city's tree canopy cover. This work is over a decade in the making and the UFC believes it is an impactful step forward in creating a healthy, prosperous Seattle.

To reiterate from the UFC's [September 4 letter](#), the UFC is thankful for the work that SDCI and OSE are currently undertaking to: implement and enforce the current SMC 25.11.090; fully implement Executive Order 2017-11; and conduct public outreach associated with tree regulation updates and the update to the Urban Forest Management Plan.

The completion of these efforts and the groundwork they will provide for the implementation of a revised Tree and Urban Forest Protection Ordinance (Ordinance) is critical. To this end the UFC recommends:

1. That 2020 Budget include necessary funding and support to finalize development and carry out implementation of a revised SMC 25.11.090 and associated administrative rules.
2. That the UFC's [recommendations to Draft 7](#) of the Ordinance be considered as a vast improvement in effective urban forest management, that are both realistic and in-line with peer ordinances nation-wide.

3. That the UFC be utilized as a resource in updating the legislation and removing barriers to the implementation of a revised Ordinance. The UFC also reiterates the provisions in [Executive Order 2017-11](#) and the UFC's enabling legislation, [Ordinance 123052](#), both of which direct the participation and consultation of the UFC on these issues prior to their introduction publicly. The UFC has had successful small deliberative sessions and looks forward to continuing those with Departmental and Council Central staff.

Sincerely,

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

Weston Brinley, Chair

cc: Nathan Torgelson, Jessica Finn Coven, Mike Podowski, Michelle Caulfield, Chanda Emery, Art Pederson, Paul Humphries, Urban Forestry Management Team, Urban Forestry Core Team, Aaron Blumenthal, Yolanda Ho, Amanda Hohlfeld

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