



City of Seattle
Urban Forestry Commission

Julia Michalak (Position #1 – Wildlife Biologist), Co-chair
Joshua Morris (Position #7 – NGO), Co-Chair
Elby Jones (Position #2 – Urban Ecologist - ISA) • **Weston Brinkley** (Position #3 – University)
Stuart Niven (Position #5 – Arborist – ISA) • **David Moehring** (Position # 8 – Development)
Blake Voorhees (Position # 9 – Realtor) • **Jessica Hernandez** (Position #11 – Environmental Justice)
Jessica Jones (Position # 12 – Public Health)

January 5, 2022

Stephanie Helms
Seattle Department of Transportation
700 5th Avenue, Suite 3800
Seattle, WA 98104

Re: Sooty bark disease follow-up

Dear Stephanie,

Duwamish Lands (Seattle, WA) – With apologies for the delay in getting this to you, the Urban Forestry Commission (UFC) would like to thank you for your October presentation on the City’s response to sooty bark disease. The work you and your colleagues are doing will be very valuable in allowing the City to make informed management decisions regarding this new threat to our urban forest. The Seattle Department of Transportation has always proven to be a supportive and approachable agency that continues to take an interest in the work of the UFC.

The UFC was impressed with the level of involvement not only within the City and State, but with other countries facing the same problem. The potential of sooty bark disease to impact maples, one of the most abundant types of tree in our urban forest, is a concern to the UFC. The UFC appreciates your offer to keep us informed as this effort moves forward and is eager to learn more and assist as possible.

Your experience and knowledge of invasive pests that affect the health of the trees is a valuable skill that will be pertinent in achieving a positive outcome in this difficult case. Thank you again for briefing the UFC and for the work you are doing.

Sincerely,

Julia Michalak, Co-Chair

Josh Morris, Co-Chair

cc: Mayor Bruce Harrell, Council President Deborah Juarez, CM Lisa Herbold, CM Andrew Lewis, CM Tammy Morales, CM Teresa Mosqueda, CM Sara Nelson, CM Alex Pedersen, CM Kshama Sawant, CM Dan Strauss, Michelle Caulfield, Sharon Lerman, Urban Forestry Management Team, Urban Forestry Core Team, Kristen Simpson, Joe Markovich

Patti Bakker, Interim Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator
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www.seattle.gov/UrbanForestryCommission

UFC acknowledges the Coast Salish peoples of this land, the land which touches the shared waters of all tribes and bands within the Duwamish, Puyallup, Suquamish, Tulalip and Muckleshoot nations. As a commission, we are continuing our work to build strong and reciprocal relationships with the Indigenous lands and peoples of this city.