

DRAFT

MATERIAL PREPARED FOR DISCUSSION BY THE URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION. THIS DELIBERATIVE DOCUMENT DOES NOT REFLECT THE OPINION OF THE URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION AND MAY OR MAY NOT MOVE FORWARD TO VOTE.

June 15, 2022

Councilmember Alex Pedersen
Seattle City Council
600 4th Ave
Seattle, WA 98104

RE: Deadline extension for SLI MO-001-A-002-2022

Dear Councilmember Pedersen,

The Urban Forestry Commission (UFC) requests additional time to respond to [Statement of Legislative Intent MO-001-002-2022](#), City Council's request for recommendations regarding creating a "chief arborist" position. The UFC believes extending the deadline to September 9, 2022, will be advantageous for three reasons:

1. The results of the 2021 canopy cover assessment will be available in July. This information will help us better understand the state of the urban forest and inform what essential functions (e.g., regulatory vs. strategic) a "chief arborist" should play;
2. The appeal on SDCI's proposed update to the tree protection ordinance is likely to be resolved over the summer. That outcome will also help shape recommendations. And;
3. The additional time will allow the UFC to coordinate and collaborate with City staff in a way that would not be possible under the current timeline.

The UFC has been in contact with the Office of Sustainability and Environment to establish a process for collaborating and delivering a response or responses to SLI MO-001-002-2022 by early September, which will still be timely for 2023 budget recommendations.

Thank you for your patience and flexibility.

Sincerely,

Julia Michalak, Ph.D., co-chair

Joshua Morris, co-chair

Cc: Councilmember Kshama Sawant
Councilmember Dan Strauss
Director Jessyn Farrell, Office of Sustainability and Environment