

## **SEATTLE URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION**

**Weston Brinkley** (Position #3 – University), Chair • **Sarah Rehder** (Position #4 – Hydrologist), Vice-chair  
**Steve Zemke** (Position #1 – Wildlife Biologist) • **Elby Jones** (Position #2 – Urban Ecologist - ISA)  
**Stuart Niven** (Position #5 – Arborist – ISA) • **Michael Walton** (Position #6 – Landscape Architect – ISA)  
**Joshua Morris** (Position #7 – NGO) • **Steven Fry** (Position #8 – Development)  
**Blake Voorhees** (Position #9 – Realtor) • **Neeyati Johnson** (Position #10 – Get Engaged)  
**Whit Bouton** (Position #11 – Environmental Justice - ISA)  
**Jessica Jones** (Position #12 – Public Health) • **Shari Selch** (Position #13 – Community/Neighborhood)

May 13, 2020.

Jason Johnson, Interim Director  
Human Services Department  
700 5<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Seattle, WA 98124

RE: Navigation Team

Dear Interim Director Johnson:

The Urban Forestry Commission (UFC) would like to extend its gratitude to the Human Services Department for its efforts supporting the City’s Navigation Team, and specifically to Tara Beck, for taking the time to brief the UFC on this important work.

Connecting vulnerable people living unsheltered to services and shelter is more critical than ever as we work to minimize the impacts of the COVID-19. Seattle’s urban trees play a key role helping clean the city’s air, a relationship that has become more apparent given the link between air pollution and COVID-19 vulnerability.

The UFC recognizes the City for the outstanding job pivoting to re-deploy staff and re-allocate resources to respond to this unprecedented crisis and serve Seattle’s most vulnerable populations.

The UFC will follow up with a more detailed letter with recommendations once the City's current crisis response has receded and the City can resume focus on pre-crisis initiatives.

Sincerely,

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

Weston Brinkley, Chair

cc: Mayor Jenny A. Durkan, Council President Lorena González, CM Lisa Herbold, CM Debora Juarez, CM Andrew Lewis, CM Tammy Morales, CM Teresa Mosqueda, CM Alex Pedersen, CM Kshama Sawant, CM Dan Strauss, Jessica Finn Coven, Michelle Caulfield, Tara Beck, Urban Forestry Management Team, Urban Forestry Core Team, Yolanda Ho, Paúl Quiñonez Figueroa

Sandra Pinto de Bader, Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator  
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