

Seattle Urban Forestry Commission

Peg Staeheli, Chair • Tom Early, Vice-Chair

Gordon Bradley • Leif Fixen • Donna Kostka • Joanna Nelson de Flores • Jeff Reibman • Erik Rundell • Steve Zemke

September 5, 2014.

Mayor Ed Murray and Councilmember Sally Bagshaw
Seattle City Hall
600 4th Avenue
Seattle, WA 98124

RE: Mayor's Executive Order 03-05 - Tree Replacement

Dear Mayor Murray and Councilmember Bagshaw,

Nine years ago, Mayor Nickels issued an order *"directing City departments to replace every tree removed from city property with two new trees, a step that will help ensure Seattle remains a truly "green" city."*

Our City departments have done a very good job addressing this requirement; however we observe mature tree removal often being replaced with smaller canopy species which, while meeting the stated requirements of the 2:1 order, has a negative effect in our overall canopy cover. We recommend three relatively simple modifications to Executive Order 03-05 that we believe would better support the Urban Forest Stewardship Plan goals:

- 1) Tree removals required to be replaced with 2:1 of **medium to large canopy trees at maturity**, or if **small trees** are required due to space constraints then the replacement **should be 4:1**.
- 2) **Conifers** should be replaced with conifers at the appropriate ratio.
- 3) Minimum **tree planting size should be reduced to 1 inch caliper**. This size has several benefits including survivability, ease of placement, and ease of handling, adaptation, and cost. Generally the smaller caliper trees will grow more quickly and surpass the trees planted at a larger size.

These modification are consistent with the original intent as the *"mayor's order requires replacement within two years with appropriate trees...and as close to the removed tree as possible."*

Seattle's Urban Forest Stewardship Plan has a 30% Canopy Goal by 2037. The Commission is reviewing progress made on our tree canopy while new tree policies such as the DPD Tree

Ordinance are on hold. Updating Executive Order 03-05 with the above small improvements will move the City forward in achieving the stated 30% city wide canopy goal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peg Staeheli". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Peg Staeheli, Chair
Seattle Urban Forestry Commission

cc: Mayor Ed Murray, Council President Burgess, Councilmember Clark, Councilmember Godden, Councilmember Harrell, Councilmember Licata, Councilmember Rasmussen, Councilmember O'Brien, Councilmember Sawant, Jill Simmons, Christopher Williams, Diane Sugimura, Scott Kubly, Jorge Carrasco, Fred Podesta, Ray Hoffman, Robert Nellams, Doug Critchfield, Mark Mead, Barbara Gray, Darren Morgan, Nolan Rundquist, Brent Schmidt, Dave Bayard, Sara Calvillo-Hoffman, Keiko Nungesser, Rich Gustav, Jana Dilley, Deb Heiden, Brennon Staley, Erik McConaghy

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