

SEATTLE URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION

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Jessica Jones (Position # 12 – Public Health) • **Shari Selch** (Position # 13 – Community/Neighborhood)

October 7, 2020.

Arielle Simmons-Steffen
iSeaTree App Team (TreeMamaSEA@gmail.com)
Seattle, WA

RE: iSeaTree tree tracking application

Dear Arielle,

The Urban Forestry Commission (UFC) would like to extend its gratitude for your informative presentation about the creation and on-going development of the iSeaTree software application and the related TreeMama.org website.

It was useful to learn about the inspiration, motivation and focus of the platform as well as how the UFC and the wider public can help in its evolution in real-time. On-going restrictions within Seattle and the surrounding region for group, in-person gatherings due to COVID-19 are preventing 'normal' access to educational and social outreach, so online forums like iSeaTree are incredibly important at this time as they allow people to stay connected with a growing community, safely and with positive outcomes.

During a time of increasing socio-economic instability and focus on equity issues across all facets of society, it is great to hear of a free, data-focused, fact-based and community-centric approach to learning and education for all people of all ages, especially young people.

Seattle is undergoing relatively rapid development, which is resulting in the loss of many of Seattle's mature trees annually, in all neighborhoods and affects all people. With access to the important resources that the iSeaTree application and TreeMama.org website provide, more people can be connected to more trees and this connection will help document and analyze the benefits that the trees of Seattle are providing to everyone that lives in the city.

This information may become very useful in helping support and evolve any future tree protection regulations and urban forestry program development within the various departments of the City of Seattle that have any level of responsibility for the care and protection of trees.

Again, thank you for taking the time to share your hard work with the UFC. Seattle's urban trees are an incredibly important asset to Seattle and the UFC applauds all work being done to raise awareness to their essential benefits and helping to educate and inform along the way.

The UFC would be happy to receive future updates as the iSeaTree platform evolves and will remain willing and able to answer any questions or comments that you may have into the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background. The signature is stylized 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, Urban Forestry Management Team, Urban Forestry Core Team, Yolanda Ho, Austin Miller

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