

SEATTLE URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION

Weston Brinkley (Position #3 – University), Chair • **Sarah Rehder** (Position #4 – Hydrologist), Vice-chair
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Joshua Morris (Position #7 – NGO) • **Steven Fry** (Position #8 – Development)
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Whit Bouton (Position #11 – Environmental Justice - ISA)
Jessica Jones (Position #12 – Public Health) • **Shari Selch** (Position #13 – Community/Neighborhood)

May 13, 2020.

Jessica Finn Coven, Director
Office of Sustainability & Environment
700 5th Ave
Seattle, WA 98124

RE: Green New Deal

Dear Director Finn Coven:

The Urban Forestry Commission (UFC) would like to extend its gratitude to the Office of Sustainability & Environment for its efforts supporting the City of Seattle during the COVID-19 crisis, and specifically to Lylianna Allala, for taking the time to brief the UFC on the Green New Deal and the planned oversight board.

The UFC is a strong supporter and ally of this initiative and appreciates the background on the organizational progress to date. The UFC also acknowledges the need to place this, and other important work, on hold as the City pivots to re-deploy staff and re-allocate resources to respond to this unprecedented crisis and serve Seattle's most vulnerable populations.

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 City's Green New Deal will be key to helping vulnerable populations recover.

The UFC will follow up with a more detailed letter with recommendations once the City's current crisis response has receded and the City 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, Michelle Caulfield, Lylianna Allala, 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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