

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.

(Date)

Mayor Jenny A. Durkan and Seattle City Council Members
Seattle City Hall 600 4th Ave
Seattle, WA 98124
RE: Statement of Support for Black Lives Matter

The ~~Seattle~~ Urban Forestry Commission (~~UFC~~) stands with Black Lives Matter. ~~We-The UFC~~ condemns the murders of George Floyd, Rayshard Brooks, Breonna Taylor and many other Black Americans at the hands of police. ~~We-The UFC~~ acknowledges that this systemic racial violence also lives within our own city. ~~We-The UFC~~ honors their lives and demands an end to the killing of unarmed Black civilians by police.

As an ~~entity advisory body to~~ the City of Seattle, ~~we-the UFC~~ acknowledges ~~we-it is~~ occupying the traditional land of the Duwamish and Coast Salish people. The current system of lawmaking in Seattle including Council and the Mayor is created through a white normative process which amplifies white voices and minimizes voices of ~~Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC)~~. The ~~UFCrbn Forestry Commission~~ is a part of this process, ~~we-and is~~ committed to identifying manifestations of white supremacy and seeking greater equity within the ~~CommissionUFC~~. ~~We-The UFC~~ will utilize the Racial Equity Toolkit, foster intentional dialogue amongst Commission members, and welcome public comment to guide ~~our-its~~ work.

Furthermore, ~~theis Commission-UFC~~ recognizes ~~our-its~~ direct responsibility to mitigate environmental racism in Seattle. People of color are more likely to live near polluters or breathe polluted air. Thus, particulate air pollution has adverse impacts on health outcomes in communities of color. As climate change progresses, ~~we-will-see~~ the most severe impacts ~~will affect-in~~ already marginalized communities. Additionally, ~~2016 The~~ Seattle Tree ~~Canopy Assessment confirmed-found~~ that “~~census tracts where the population tends to be residents of color and people with lower than average income also have lower amounts of tree canopy.” the less white a neighborhood, the less likely it is to have robust tree coverage~~” (~~Tipayosthi, Davidow~~). Trees are a tool of environmental protection and public health. The ~~UFCrbn Forestry Commission~~ pledges to ~~seek-support out policies and programs~~ that remedy tree canopy discrepancies for recommendation to Mayor and Council.

At this time ~~we-the UFC~~ wants to make space for the Mayor and Council to listen to community members and enact change that erodes systems of oppression and address the harm of Black folks by the Seattle Police Department and City of Seattle.

References:

<https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2018/02/the-trump-administration-finds-that-environmental-racism-is-real/554315/>

<https://www.invw.org/2018/04/23/seattle-minorities-shorter-on-tree-canopy-city-study-shows/>