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From: [Jonelle Kemmerling](#)

Sent: Friday, March 18, 2022 5:18:17 PM

To: [City Council](#)

Subject: [EXTERNAL] March 21, 2022 Council Meeting, Agenda Items 8(b) and 8(c)

Sensitivity: Normal

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Dear City Council Members:

If every single person with authority would do just one thing to retain more of our larger trees, it would aid in creating a better quality of life for all of us in the developing climate crisis.

Regarding Item 8(c), the proposed amendments to Tree Codes, I request that you

- Vote for approval of the definition of a 6" dbh Significant tree
- Vote that a permit is required for removal of every tree 24" dbh and over
- Eliminate Director authority to waive and reduce retention of trees on construction sites, and
- Eliminate Director authority to reduce replacement trees on construction sites

Research has proven that trees grow more quickly as they age and that old trees are better at absorbing carbon. [*Nature* 15 Jan 2014, Vol. 507, P. 90-93]

According to the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, one acre of forest absorbs six tons of carbon dioxide and produces four tons of oxygen per year.

Regarding the intended cutting down of two 100-foot-tall Western red cedars on 5th Ave NE at the corner of NE 178th Street (Item 8(b)):

Shoreline has been a city for just over 26 years. These two trees, #114 and #117, in good health, have been growing for more than 80 years. They have been holding up the slope allowing people to walk easily along the roadway. There are no bulges in the street from their roots. These and two other cedars create privacy for the homeowners, give them cleaner air, and absorb some of the invasive noise the light rail line construction has caused by the removal of many of the 5,300 trees.

Your arborist said of Tree #114, "*Given the size of this tree and the ecological importance of mature trees, efforts should be made to retain it.*"

Please direct the City planning staff to alter the design and retain the Tree 114 Group. It can be done if the will to do it exists.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jonelle Kemmerling

Shoreline Resident