

From: [Boni Biery](#)
To: [City Council](#); [Betsy Robertson](#); [Chris Roberts](#); [Doris McConnell](#); [Eben Pobe](#); [John Ramsdell](#); [Keith Scully](#); [Laura Mork](#); [agenda comments](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item 9b - Ordinance No. 968 – MUR-70' Zone
Date: Sunday, June 26, 2022 11:14:15 PM
Attachments: [22 Jun 26 MUR 70.pdf](#)

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Dear Council Members:

Please read the attached letter.

always,
Boni

903 N 188th St
Shoreline, WA 98133
June 26, 2022

To: City Council
Subject: Agenda Item 9b - Ordinance No. 968 – MUR-70' Zone

Please make it mandatory that MUR 70' zones retain a minimum of 10% of mature, living trees with a preference for native evergreens that cannot be waived by the Planning Director. Designing around trees is something the national companies building in Shoreline do all the time. Instead, they are allowed to clearcut the trees and haul the carcasses of our once mature trees off to the lumber mills for their own profit. Then, they build over the soils where any future trees might grow. Once these trees are gone, we will never see trees there again. Meanwhile, development companies are receiving property tax breaks as incentives to do this. Does that really make sense?

Trees in areas of increased population density are a matter of equity. Citizens have the right to benefit equally from having mature, native trees close-by. Removing all the trees denies them any semblance of equity for those who too often need it most.

Not long after Shoreline became a city, it was named "Most Livable City" and much of that was based on the density of our mature forest canopy while being near to Seattle. Soon we will have less tree canopy by percentage than Seattle. When we lose the trees, we lose the birds, and the squirrels too. This disconnection from nature erodes our very humanity.

As our population grows, it becomes essential that an **increasing number of trees be saved** since most of the additional housing units will have no personal green space for direct contact with nature and Shoreline is so built out that park space is nearly impossible to find at any price. The City Council can choose this moment to require 10% tree retention on MUR 70' lots, the same as MUR 80', as the first step in moving toward greater livability.

Trees are a big part of humanizing any city. They create cities where people actually use the sidewalks to navigate to/from the bus, the store, the post office. Shoreline is fortunate to still have some trees that can be saved, if City Council has the courage to make it happen.

In 2011 the canopy was at 33% coverage. Since then, the percentage has been steadily dropping. Our mature canopy is the Shoreline's collective treasure and it is being squandered while the developers laugh all the way to the bank. We truly need "an equitable, walkable, and treed community," please demand developers design to protect a minimum 10% of the trees on their lots.

To paraphrase Joni Mitchell – ...pave paradise build an apartment block...

Sincerely,
Boni Biery