

February 5, 2016

Jesús Aguirre, Superintendent
Seattle Parks and Recreation
100 Dexter Ave N.
Seattle, WA 98109
jesus.aguirre@seattle.gov

Re: Disclosure of Tree Pruning / Cutting Work on City-Owned Property

Dear Mr. Aguirre:

We write to disclose tree pruning and cutting work carried out by a third party contractor on behalf of my client and others. The unfortunate decision was carried out in a manner that does not reflect my client's respect for the City or the Parks Department and while he alone was not the only participant, he feels it is appropriate to self-report this matter and work to mitigate any negative consequences. We believe this work took place on the City-owned parcels near our client's property, who resides on the 3200 block of 35th Avenue SW in West Seattle. Based on a review of DPD's on-line GIS site, we believe the work has affected vegetation and trees on King County Assessor's Tax Parcel Nos. 132403-9099 and 132403-9086, which we understand are owned by the City and managed by Seattle Parks and Recreation.

I am reaching out to you, Mr. Aguirre, because our client wishes to work with Parks to rectify any damage that may have been done to City property in the course of this work. While we do not believe it is possible to replace the trees as they were, my client does wish to assure you that all effort will be made to restore the quality of this site. Because the site is a natural area along a steep slope, we recognize that replanting may be necessary in the near term, as well as longer-term actions ensure establishment of new trees and monitor the condition of the site. Considering this, as well as the Green Seattle Partnership guidelines and expectations for the site, we have already engaged an experienced urban forester to recommend and assist with the implementation of a restoration plan for the site. We will share our forester's restoration plan under separate cover, which will (upon City approval) include a timeline for restoration work, as well as provisions for removal of invasive plants, erosion control measures, the planting of appropriate native species and the development of a plant establishment program to assure survival of the plants on the site.

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To implement this plan, we would prefer to engage contractors or providers that have experience with accomplishing Parks' goals for natural areas. My client is aware of the local non-profit organizations that are involved in the Green Seattle Partnership and wishes to work with them, if acceptable.

We understand that Parks' does have a tree trimming permit system and associated fees. While we understand the regulations governing this system strictly limit tree removals, we nevertheless believe that working through Parks' permit process would be a prudent way to resolve this matter. This would place the burden of ongoing restoration on our client, and we believe it would provide an efficient means to finalize and implement the restoration plan for this site under the direction of Parks staff.

If Parks wishes to address site restoration or compensation in some other matter, we are of course happy to make ourselves available to discuss alternatives. We have contacted you because our client wishes to find a mutually-acceptable plan to address the work that took place on City property. We feel this is not only the right thing to do, but the best way to safeguard the health of this site for the future.

Please do not hesitate to contact me directly if you would like to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Clayton P. Graham", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Clayton P. Graham

cc: Dan Johnson, Director
Doug Critchfield, Manager