

**Doug and Gordean Bjornson**  
**1087 Finlay Street**  
**White Rock, BC V4B 4K7**

June 21, 2021

City of White Rock  
Council Members

Dear Council Members,

We are writing to you to express our concerns about 13 self seeded cottonwood trees that have grown very rapidly on city property at the southeast corner of Semiahmoo Avenue. Historically, this city property did not have any trees on it, only shrubs and blackberry bushes. When we purchased our property in 2014 there was no visible trees in this area.

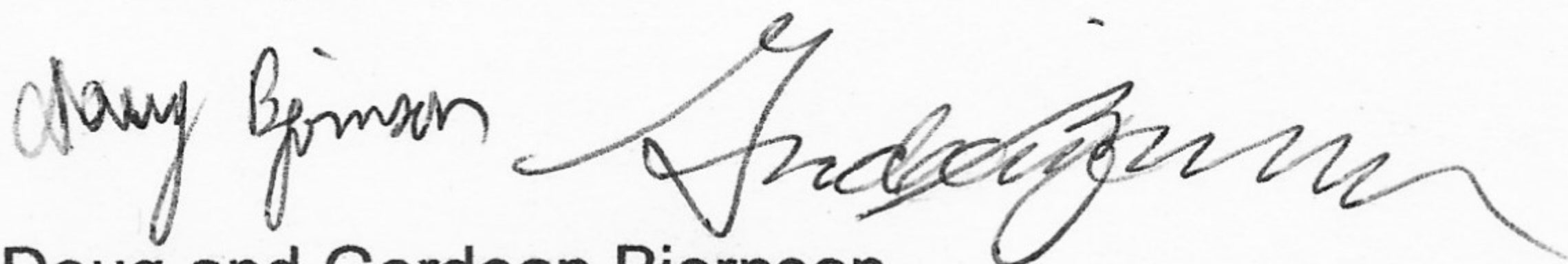
Black cottonwood trees generally grow about 6 feet per year and at maturity can be 100 feet with branches that can extend out by 30-40 feet in all directions. The sheer size of these trees pose significant safety issues to neighbourhood homes, an adjacent well-traveled pedestrian walkway with staircase and automobiles and people on Semiahmoo Avenue. With the high winds that this area is prone to there is additional safety issues relating to power lines and flying tree branches that could damage personal property.

These 13 black cottonwood trees are completely out of character with the historic ambiance of this neighbourhood. Some of these trees are already over 40 feet high and have already had a significant effect on the long-time views enjoyed by several residents living on Semiahmoo and Cliff Avenues. Allowed to continue to grow there will be an increased safety concern as well as an increasing obstruction of residential views. This has significant potential to negatively affect the property values in this neighbourhood. We pay taxes based on the value of our home and would appreciate the City not inadvertently undermining its value.

We are hoping that Council will agree that these trees do not belong in this residential setting and will work with the neighbourhood to develop a reasonable plan to have these trees removed either by the City or by the residents at their expense working with a City approved professional Tree Service.

We look forward to working with our neighbours and the city to resolve this problem.

Warm regards,

The block contains two handwritten signatures in black ink. The first signature on the left is 'Doug Bjornson' and the second signature on the right is 'Gordean Bjornson'. Both are written in a cursive, flowing style.

Doug and Gordean Bjornson  
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White Rock, B.C.  
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