

June 19, 2021

To: WHITE ROCK CITY COUNCIL

Please accept this letter as support for the delegation to have the City remove the black cottonwood trees growing on the road allowance of Semiahmoo St. east of Findlay St.

I am a resident of the neighborhood and live at 15648 Cliff Avenue. When approached for my opinion, I was surprised and concerned to learn there are 13 cottonwood trees at the location noted above. From what I know of cottonwood, it is one of the fastest growing native tree in North America and can reach 150 feet in height in just a few years. One online article stated: "planting cottonwood trees in home landscapes leads to problems. These messy trees have weak wood and are prone to disease. In addition, their massive size makes them out of scale for all but the largest landscapes". From this, one can conclude that a single cottonwood is not suitable for the road allowance at Semiahmoo and Finlay Streets. Thirteen are, therefore, problematic and need immediate management prior to the trees becoming too large and costly to control.

In addition to the massive size of cottonwoods, this species of tree spreads its cotton seeds great distances each Spring. My daughter is a soccer player and struggles to play on pitches with cottonwoods nearby; South Meridian & Dufferin are examples. The cotton seeds cause those with allergies, including my daughter, to experience itchy, watery eyes and necessitate the use of antihistamines to manage the symptoms.

Finally, it can be expected that 13 trees, growing to a potential height of 150 feet each, will have a significantly negative impact on the views of numerous homeowners in our neighbourhood.

I am urging the City of White Rock to act now to remove the 13 cottonwood trees to avoid the higher costs associated with future removal, future danger to nearby homes, aggravation for those with allergies and impacted views.

Respectfully submitted for your consideration,

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