

June 21, 2021
To WHITE ROCK CITY COUNCIL

We are writing this letter in support of the neighbourhood delegation that is very concerned about 13 rapidly growing black Cottonwood trees that have self-seeded on city property on the S.E.side of Semiahmoo Ave 15600 block .

My wife and I have lived on Cliff Ave for 23 years and have never seen any trees on this property, only blackberry bushes and shrubs.

In researching information about the Black Cottonwood tree as part of this delegation it is very apparent that these 13 trees would have significantly adverse effects on the historic ambiance and character of this neighborhood. They also raise worrisome safety issues, particularly in high wind conditions, to homes, power lines , people walking on the adjacent well travelled pedestrian walkway and pedestrians and automobiles on Semiahmoo Ave.

The many safety issues associated with these trees are related to their annual growth of about 6-8 feet per year, eventual heights well in excess of a 100 feet in maturity, and their pattern of producing branches in all directions 30-40 feet long weighing over a thousand pounds .These branches are characteristically prone to breakage during high wind and adverse weather conditions.

As long time residents of this neighborhood we know that many other residents share these safety concerns and the effects the continued growth these trees will have on their long time historical views, which in some cases would be completely obliterated.

There are also very real concerns that our property values will be adversely affected .

These 13 black Cottonwood trees grown to maturity would be analogous in height and breadth to 13 ten story high rises being built on this small piece of city property.

Regardless of how you look at it, these trees are totally unacceptable not only in this location, however in any residential neighborhood, particularly one where residents have paid higher house taxes for many years based upon historic views which are now being significantly affected.

In all honesty the city arborist and engineering department should have been aware of all of the impending issues relating to these trees as they continued to grow, and remove them at an earlier stage before negatively affecting residents in the area .

On this basis and in regard to all the other issues noted in this letter we believe the city should remove these trees as soon as possible at city expense. Alternatively, If this is not possible, then allow the residents to hire a professional tree service approved by the city to have these tree removed at the residents' expense.

Respectfully yours,

Michael and Leila Weiner
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