

Amendment 2 Version 1 to CB 120509 – Tree Service Provider Modifications

Sponsor: Councilmember Strauss

Optional Third Party Assessment

Effect: When a registered tree service provider proposes to remove an exceptional tree based on it being a hazardous tree, the current regulations require that the tree service provider engage another registered tree service provider to conduct an independent assessment of the tree before the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections (SDCI) can issue a hazardous tree removal permit. This amendment would provide SDCI with the authority to decide if a third party assessment is required instead of requiring it in all cases.

Amend Section 4 of Council Bill 120509, as follows:

Section 4. Section 25.11.095 of the Seattle Municipal Code, added by Ordinance 126554, is amended as follows:

25.11.095 Tree service provider registration

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C. Tree service provider activities

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3. If a registered tree service provider is proposing to remove or conduct major pruning on a tree based on it being a hazardous tree, the following requirements apply:

a. The registered tree service provider applying for the hazardous tree removal permit must either have an employee or a person on retainer who is currently credentialed with an ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualification;

b. The registered tree service provider must submit documents as required by the Director, including a brief report that summarizes the factors contributing to the tree's risk

rating. This report should include information on the overall health of the tree, the dimensions and structure of the tree, and analysis of potential targets should it or major parts of it fall. When deemed necessary by the Director, the report should also include analyses of tissue samples to confirm disease or other issues concerning whether the tree poses a hazard to property or human safety;

c. If the tree does not meet the City's definition of exceptional, the registered tree service provider that submits the hazardous tree removal permit application may also perform the removal or major pruning of the tree; and

d. If the tree meets the City's definition of exceptional, the Director may require that the registered tree service provider ~~shall~~ engage another registered tree service provider to independently assess the tree and submit the application for its removal. The registered tree service provider that submits the application must be different from the registered tree service provider that will perform the removal or major pruning of the tree.