



SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL
CENTRAL STAFF

Tree Service Provider Registration (Council Bill 120207)

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LAND USE COMMITTEE

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Presentation Overview

- Background
- Summary of Council Bill (CB) 120207
- Comparison with Seattle Department of Transportation's (SDOT's) Registry
- Potential Impacts of CB 120207

Background

- Council adopted Resolution 31902 stating the Council's and Mayor's shared commitment to explore strategies to protect trees and increase Seattle's tree canopy cover
- Included the priority that all tree service providers operating in Seattle be required to meet minimum certification and training requirements and register with the City
- Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) already requires that tree service providers working on trees in the public right-of-way register with the City

Summary of CB 120239

The legislation would:

- Require that the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections (SDCI) set up a registration system within 90 days of the effective date of the ordinance
- Tree service providers would then have 90 days to register with SDCI
- Define “commercial tree work” and “tree service provider”
- Require that registered tree service providers comply with best practices specific to type of commercial tree work for which they are hired
- Authorize SDCI to create rules as needed to support administration of the registry
- Amend other sections of Title 25 to align with legislation’s intent

Comparison with SDOT's Registry

Description	SDOT	SDCI (CB 120207)
Registration Fee	None	None
WA General Contractor's License	Yes	Yes
Seattle Business License	Yes	Yes
Commercial Liability Insurance	Minimum \$1M coverage, with City as additional insured	Coverage amount to be determined by SDCI
ISA-Certified Arborist	On staff or retainer	On staff
Familiarity with City Regulations	Yes	Yes
Public Notice	14 days in advance of tree removal	3 days in advance of major pruning or removal
Penalty	Removal from registry for one year following two notices of violation (any); may reapply after a year	SDCI will not accept submittal of tree-related reports until notice of violation (illegal removal of exceptional tree) is resolved

Potential Impacts of CB 120207

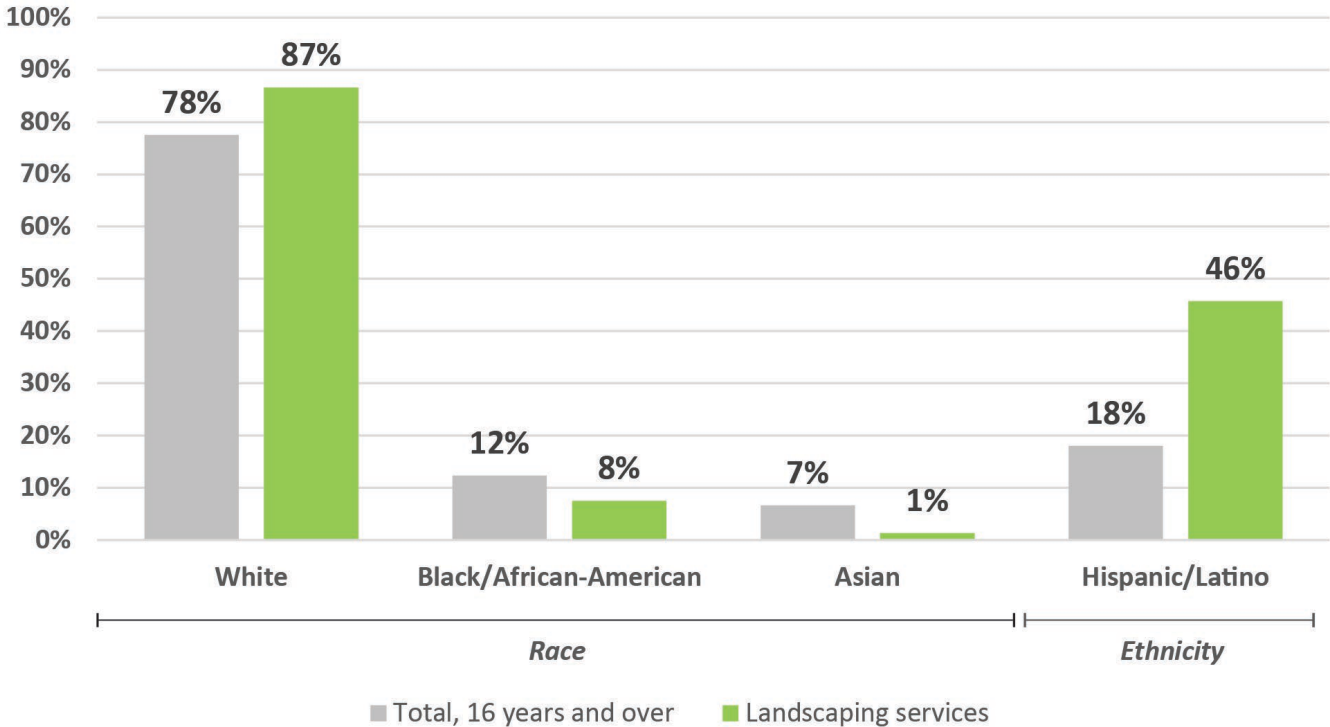
- Urban forestry
 - Would expand scope of current registration requirement
 - SDOT has observed improved street tree management overall, though some problems persist
 - SDCI provides limited oversight of tree management outside of a development proposal

Potential Impacts of CB 120207

- Tree service providers: over 900 businesses with active Seattle licenses in the landscaping services industry

Share of workers by race or ethnicity, total and landscaping services, United States, 2021

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2022



Potential Impacts of CB 120207

- Tree service providers
 - Registration will likely impact a greater number of businesses
 - Requirement for ISA-certified arborist on staff could present a barrier
 - Applicants must have (1) at least three years of work experience in arboriculture; and/or (2) a degree in arboriculture, horticulture, landscape architecture, or forestry from a regionally-accredited institution and practical arboriculture experience
 - Exam provides accreditation for three years and either must be taken again or have sufficient continuing education credits to maintain credential

Potential Impacts of CB 120207

- Cost of tree services
 - Could increase due to requirement for ISA-certified arborist
- Implementation
 - SDCI has limited staff capacity to develop registry system
 - Outreach to landscaping businesses and other stakeholders
- Enforcement
 - Public notice requirement

Questions?