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BEFORE THE HEARING EXAMINER  
CITY OF SEATTLE

In the Matter of the Appeals of  
MBAKS, LEGACY GROUP,  
BLUEPRINT CAPITAL  
  
from a Determination of Non-Significance  
issued by the Director, Seattle Department  
of Construction and Inspections.

NO. W-22-003  
  
Department Reference: 000268-22PN

DECLARATION OF STEVE ZEMKE  
IN SUPPORT OF TREEPAC'S  
MOTION TO INTERVENE

I, STEVE ZEMKE, declare as follows:

1. I am a member and Chair of TreePAC. I am over the age of 18 years. I served for six years as the wildlife biologist on the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission. I was a member of the Commission's drafting committee which in 2018 produced a draft Tree and Urban Forest Protection Ordinance requested by several Seattle City Council members. I make this declaration based on my personal knowledge.

2. TreePAC is a public interest and community-based organization in Seattle whose mission is assuring that tree canopy is preserved and saved to the greatest degree possible in Seattle's regulatory scheme and permit approvals. In addition, TreePAC's mission is to ensure that legislation adopted by the City of Seattle accomplishes the goals of tree retention, tree protection, and tree replacement so that we have livable communities, wildlife habitat, and adequate urban forests to mitigate peak stormwater loads and urban heat island effects.

1           3.       TreePAC strongly believes that Seattle needs an updated tree protection ordinance.  
2 TreePAC's top priority goal has been to work with the Mayor and Seattle City Council to enact a  
3 stronger ordinance. Rapidly changing Seattle is losing critical tree canopy volume. Meanwhile,  
4 preservation and planting of new trees is a critical component of addressing climate change resiliency  
5 and mitigation.

6           4.       TreePAC has been very involved in the Tree Protection Ordinance Update process,  
7 which is the subject of the SEPA threshold determination that was appealed in this matter. TreePAC  
8 worked last year with the Northwest Progressive Institute to develop and conduct two polls done by  
9 Change Research, a national polling firm, to assess community support in Seattle for various  
10 provisions that the Seattle City Council had proposed in Council Resolution 31902 and that the Seattle  
11 Urban Forestry Commission had proposed in its draft Tree and Urban Forest Protection Ordinance.  
12 TreePAC has engaged in an extensive grassroots effort to alert the public about the current Tree  
13 Protection Ordinance Update, to inform the public about the issues presented, and to inform the public  
14 about the opportunities to comment on the Update.  
15

16           5.       TreePAC is spearheading several campaigns with the goal of preserving Seattle's Tree  
17 Canopy through the Tree Protection Ordinance Update. Our Yardsign Campaign goal is to distribute  
18 yard signs throughout the city that say: "Save Our Trees" and "Trees Create Healthy Communities"  
19 to raise awareness of and stimulate public involvement in the Tree Protection Ordinance Update  
20 process. TreePAC's letter writing campaign urges people to write to the City Council about issues that  
21 are important to them with the Update. TreePAC has an active website and member newsletter.  
22 TreePAC also has a presence on social media facebook and twitter accounts. TreePAC continues  
23 to work with and help co-ordinate coalition efforts by neighborhood, environmental, civic, political  
24 and other groups and organizations to provide input into the process of passing an updated Tree  
25 Protection Ordinance.  
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6. TreePAC members and representatives have observed and attended Seattle Urban Forestry Commission meetings, City Council meetings, and other meetings regarding the Update.

7. TreePAC submitted comments on the State Environmental Policy Act Determination of Non-Significance, which is the subject of this appeal, on March 3, 2022. In those comments, TreePAC Vice President, Richard Ellison, outlined concerns about the draft Tree Ordinance's lack of adequate protection of trees and tree canopy.

8. TreePAC does not intend to expand the issues beyond those stated in the appeal and will work within the existing hearing schedule.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that the foregoing is true and correct.

Dated this 13<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2022, at Seattle, Washington.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
STEVE ZEMKE

