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FILED
SUPERIOR COURT
THURSTON COUNTY, WA

2024 MAY 24 AM 9:29

Linda Myhre Enlow
Thurston County Clerk

- EXPEDITE
- No Hearing Set
- Hearing is set
- Date:
- Time:
- Judge:
- Calendar:

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF THURSTON**

SAVE THE DAVIS-MEEKER GARRY OAK,

Plaintiff,

vs.

DEBBIE SULLIVAN, in her capacity of Mayor of
Tumwater

Respondent.

Case No. 24-2-01895-34

DECLARATION OF TANYA
NOZAWA IN SUPPORT OF PETITION
FOR TEMPORARY RESTRAINING
ORDER

I, TANYA NOZAWA, make the following declaration:

1. I have knowledge of the facts stated herein and am competent to testify.
2. I am a member of the organization Save the Davis-Meeker Garry Oak (SDMGO).

On May 23, 2024, I was at the Davis Meeker Garry Oak next to the Olympia Airport in Tumwater.

This tree is 400 years old and is on the historic register. I was tying a yellow ribbon around it because the Mayor of Tumwater is trying to have the tree removed, despite the incredible community opposition to her proposal and opposition from arborists as well who believe that she is making this decision based on a flawed risk assessment of the tree.

3. Regarding the flawed risk assessment, I would like to bring the court's attention the three arborists' opinions on this website: <https://www.davis-meecker-oak.org/arborist-s-viewpoint>. They have pointed out that the tree is structurally sound, in contrast to the city's

1 arborist. At least one of them pointed out that city's arborist provided a low-budget assessment,
2 which is wholly inappropriate given the historical importance of this tree.

3 4. While I was at the tree on May 23rd, I noticed that the city had just put up signs
4 stating that the tree was dangerous. They had not been there when I drove past earlier.

5 5. I'm on the Tumwater Tree Board. I have been on it for seven years. Our role is to
6 protect trees and approve heritage trees. We are working on approving street trees. We advise the
7 city council on urban forestry issues or any other tree matter.

8 6. At the May 21, 2024, Tumwater City Council meeting, the city administrator under
9 the mayor told the council that the mayor had sent out a request for bids in February 2024 for
10 removal of the Meeker oak. I was approached on May 23, 2024, by a person who stated that they
11 had inside information from someone who works with the City of Tumwater. They said that the
12 mayor has accepted a bid to remove the tree and that the mayor had directed that this work be
13 done during the Memorial Day Weekend when everyone was out of town. Upon hearing this, I
14 immediately contacted my colleagues in SDMGO and relayed the information to them.

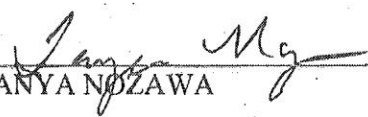
15 7. I have seen birds in the oak tree that appear to me to be nesting. They are not
16 pigeons.

17 8. I was told that the reason the mayor is trying to push through the removal of the
18 tree so quickly (and in violation of so many rules) is that she wants to expand the Olympia Airport.
19 SDMGO has a website that states this is the reason. SDMGO also has a Facebook group. On May
20 23, 2023, a woman named Joy Johnston commented on the Facebook group that the webpage
21 should not state that the mayor is removing the tree to expand the airport because this constitutes
22 making up information. A member of SDMGO researched Joy Johnson's background and
23 discovered that Ms. Johnston's firm, Mojostrategies.com, apparently is being paid by the
24
25

1 Tumwater mayor's office or the City of Tumwater to provide "Public Sector Communications
2 and Public Relations." Attached hereto as Exhibit A is a true and correct redacted copy of the
3 Facebook page with Ms. Johnston's comment at the bottom of page 1 and with the subsequent
4 comment about Ms. Johnston's firm apparently being the PR firm for the mayor's office, on page
5 2.

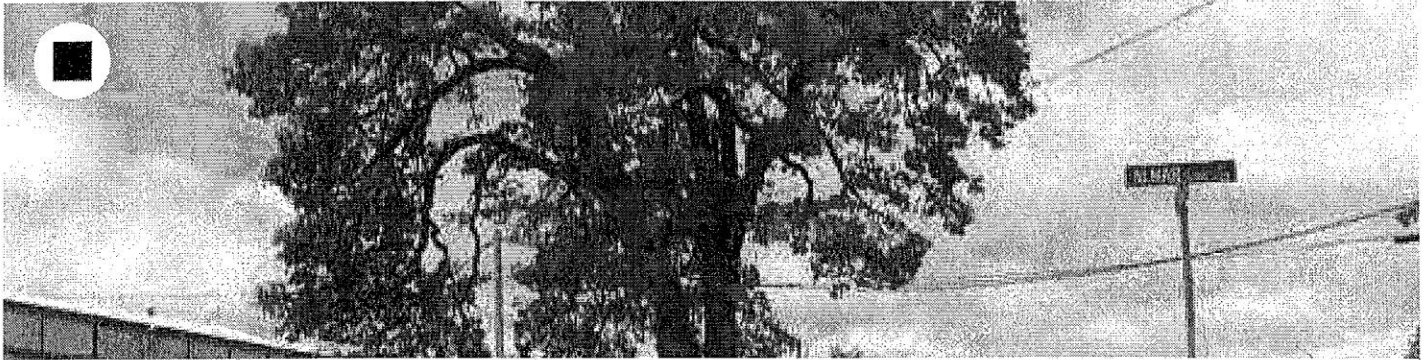
6 I declare under the penalty of perjury of the laws of the State of Washington that the
7 foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

8 EXECUTED this 24th day of May, 2024, at Tumwater, Washington.
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11
12 
13 TANYA NOZAWA
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1



Save The Old Oak Tree, the Davis Meeker Garry Oak Tree in Tumwater WA

Public group · 147 members



Edit

Invite

Share



Admin · 22h ·

New website is up and running.

EXHIBIT A





1



DAVIS-MEEKER-OAK.ORG

Davis-Meeker Garry Oak

The 400-year-old historic tree is on the chopping block! Will you help? It has cultural importan...



██████████ and 14 others

15 comments 4 shares Seen by 82



Save The Old Oak Tree, the Davis Meeker ...

Invite

Share

View previous comments



This is great we need to get the publicity out

19h Like Reply Share



Thank you ██████████ It looks great!



18h Like Reply Share



Joy Johnston

The homepage says that the tree is being removed for airport expansion. ██████████ and others, I think you know that is absolutely not true. If you want to promote saving the tree, fine, but don't make up information and push it as the truth. There are no plans to expand the footprint of the airport, nor to change the Class II status of the



1



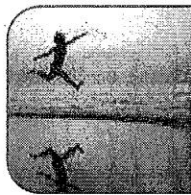
Author Admin

Joy Johnston I appreciate your feedback. You are correct that it's not good to post something that is not true. I am in total agreement. One can determine the mayor's motives by looking at what she has not done. If the mayor genuinely was concerned about public safety, as opposed to economics, she would be considering more options than total removal. She would be considering pruning and cabeling. The absence of risk reduction as an option that was considered indicates her true motives.

12h Like Reply Share



Joy Johnston And, perhaps you might state your own bias. Is your firm being paid by the mayors office or the City of Tumwater?
<https://www.mojostrategies.com/>



MOJOSTRATEGIES.COM
Mojo Strategies - Public Sector Communications and Public Relations in the Pacific Northwest

1h Wow Reply Share Edited



Author Admin

Wow, great detective work! You found a mole!

1h Like Reply Share



Write a public reply...



Great job on the website ❤️

15h Like Reply Share



Write a public comment...

