

Finance Director Reporting Structure ORD (CB 120_ _ _)

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City of Seattle

Why?

- As the City's former Finance Director departed the City, an anomaly in the Seattle Municipal Code (SMC) was highlighted.
- The Director of Finance is a Charter position, but current SMC has the position reporting through the Department of Finance and Administrative Services (FAS).
- In most peer cities, the Finance Director reports to the Mayor/City Manager.
- Running an accountability function within an operational department's chain of command can introduce the potential for conflict of interest. Shifting the oversight of this role from the FAS Director to the Mayor will help avoid the potential conflict.
- Further, Executive Recruiting reports that Finance Director is currently a difficult position to fill in the industry. Clarifying the reporting structure may make Seattle more competitive.



What?

- This legislation makes small changes to the SMC to clarify that the City’s Finance Director reports to the Mayor instead of FAS Director and renames the Finance Division the “Office of City Finance.”
- The Finance Director will continue to be appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council.
- The Office of City Finance will continue to be supported in administrative functions by FAS. This does not reorganize any functions or programs.
- No operational changes will be felt by City employees or members of the public.
- This change will not lead to additional cost to the City.



Questions?

