



SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL

Public Safety and Human Services Committee

March 22, 2022

From: Public Safety and Human Service Committee Members
RE: Adoption of the OPA Director Search Process

Section 3.29.115 of the Accountability Ordinance (Ordinance 125315) governs the appointment and removal of the Office of Police Accountability (OPA) Director. Upon any vacancy in the Director position, the Ordinance requires the Mayor to make an appointment in accordance with the process described in Section 3.29.115, with such appointment being subject to a confirmation by a majority vote of the full Council. The Ordinance indicates that the Mayor has 90 days to make an appointment. If the Mayor does not make an appointment within 90 days of the first day of the expiration of a term, of a vacancy, or of a rejection by the Council, the public safety committee shall appoint the OPA Director.

In the March 8, 2022 meeting of the Public Safety and Human Services Committee, Senior Deputy Mayor Harrell indicated that the Mayor would not make an appointment in 90 days and articulated a rationale for a longer search timeline that would produce a higher quality candidate. Instead, the Mayor desired to follow the process and timeline established in Attachment A. Pursuant to its requirements under the Accountability Ordinance, the Public Safety and Human Services Committee formally approves as its own appointment process the timeline and process established in Attachment A.

Attachment A – Proposed OPA Director Search Process