

City of Seattle



**Director
Office of Intergovernmental
Relations**

**Confirmation Packet
June 16, 2016**

Christopher M. Gregorich



City of Seattle
Mayor Edward B. Murray

June 16, 2016

The Honorable Bruce A. Harrell
President, Seattle City Council
Seattle City Hall, 2nd Floor
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Council President Harrell:

I am pleased to transmit to the City Council the following confirmation packet for my appointment of Christopher M. Gregorich as Director of the Office of Intergovernmental Relations.

The materials in this packet are divided into two sections:

A. Christopher M. Gregorich

This section contains Mr. Gregorich's appointment and oath of office forms, his resume, and the press release announcing his appointment.

B. Background Checks

This section contains the report to the Mayor's Office on Mr. Gregorich's background check.

Christopher M. Gregorich has extensive experience at all levels of government. He most recently served in two top-level positions in the Mayor's Office – Director of Strategic Initiatives and Chief of Staff. Prior to serving in my administration, Chris was Director of Public Affairs at Nyhus Communications, where he delivered top-tier legislative counsel, media and government relations strategy to clients, and managed a public affairs staff.

His background includes extensive government and political experience including having served as State Director and campaign manager for U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell, managed Derek Kilmer's first and successful campaign for the U.S. House of Representatives, and served as the Executive Director for the Washington State Senate Democratic Campaign committee.

Chris's experience and relationships across government make him an ideal person to head the Office of Intergovernmental Relations. He will be a strong advocate for the values and issues of the Council and the City and I strongly urge you to confirm him as Director.

If you have any questions about the attached materials or need additional information, please contact Deputy Mayor Kate Joncas at 206-684-3790, or via e-mail, at kate.joncas@seattle.gov.

Sincerely,



Edward B. Murray
Mayor, City of Seattle

SECTION

A



**City of Seattle
Mayor Edward B. Murray**

June 16, 2016

Christopher M. Gregorich
Seattle, WA 98124
Transmitted via e-mail

Dear Christopher,

It gives me great pleasure to appoint you to the position of Director of the Office of Intergovernmental Relations (Executive 3), effective June 29, 2016 at an annual salary of \$145,656.

Your appointment as Director is subject to City Council confirmation; therefore, you will need to attend the Council's confirmation hearings. Once confirmed by the City Council, you serve at the pleasure of the Mayor.

Your contingent offer letter provided employment information related to the terms of your employment, benefits, vacation, holiday and sick leave. If you have questions about your employment with the City of Seattle please contact Susan Coskey, Human Resources Director, at 206-615-1622.

I look forward to working with you in your role as Director and wish you success. We have much work ahead of us, and I am confident that the Office of Intergovernmental Relations will thrive beyond expectation under your leadership.

Sincerely,

Edward B. Murray
Mayor, City of Seattle

cc: Seattle Department of Human Resources



City of Seattle Department Head Notice of Appointment

Appointee Name: <i>Christopher M. Gregorich</i>		
City Department Name: <i>Office of Intergovernmental Relations</i>		Position Title: <i>Director</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Appointment <i>OR</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Reappointment		Council Confirmation required? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Appointing Authority: <input type="checkbox"/> Council <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mayor <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <i>Specify appointing authority</i>		Term of Office: <i>06/29/16 to Mayor's discretion</i>
Legislated Authority: <i>SMC 3.14.410</i>		
Background: Christopher M. Gregorich has extensive experience at all levels of government. He most recently served in two top-level positions in the Mayor's Office – Director of Strategic Initiatives and Chief of Staff. Prior to serving in my administration, Chris was Director of Public Affairs at Nyhus Communications, where he delivered top-tier legislative counsel, media and government relations strategy to clients, and managed a public affairs staff. His background includes extensive government and political experience including having served as State Director and campaign manager for U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell, managed Derek Kilmer's first and successful campaign for the U.S. House of Representatives, and served as the Executive Director for the Washington State Senate Democratic Campaign committee. Chris's experience and relationships across government make him an ideal person to head the Office of Intergovernmental Relations. He will be a strong advocate for the values and issues of the Council and the City.		
Date of Appointment: <i>6/16/2016</i>	Authorizing Signature (original signature): 	Appointing Signatory: <i>Edward B. Murray</i> <i>Mayor</i>



CITY OF SEATTLE • STATE OF WASHINGTON

OATH OF OFFICE

State of Washington

County of King

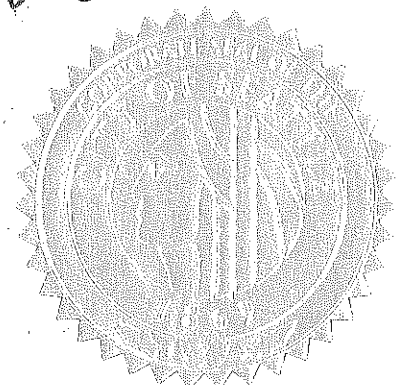
I, Christopher M. Gregorich, swear or affirm that I possess all the qualifications prescribed in the Seattle City Charter and the Seattle Municipal Code for the position of Director of the Office of Intergovernmental Relations; that I will support the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the State of Washington, and the Charter and Ordinances of The City of Seattle; and that I will faithfully conduct myself as Director of the Office of Intergovernmental Relations.

Christopher M. Gregorich

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME

THIS 26th DAY OF July, 2016.

MONICA MARTINEZ SIMMONS, CITY CLERK



Christopher M. Gregorich
chrisgregorich@gmail.com

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Office of the Mayor, Seattle, Washington

March 2014 - Present

Director, Strategic Initiatives

August 2015-Present

- Inform strategic planning and cultivation of public support for Mayor's priorities:
 - Identification, assessment and implementation planning for campaign and other commitments made by the Mayor
 - Oversee the development of issues that the Mayor and city council will send to a public vote
 - Development and implementation of the Mayor's Housing Affordability and Livability Agenda (HALA)

Chief of Staff

March 2014-August 2015

- Selected and supervised key 7th floor staff, controlled access to the Mayor and managed communications and information flow
- Worked with the city council, city departments and external political groups to implement the Mayor's agenda

Nyhus Communications, Seattle, Washington

January 2013-February 2014

Director, Public Affairs

- Served as a senior leader in running the firm and managed a team of ten public affairs staff
- Developed legislative counsel, messaging and corporate positioning, media and government relations strategy, grant advocacy, issue and crisis management support to the firm's clients
- Managed the firm's relationship with our public affairs clients as well as our partner lobbying firm

People for Derek Kilmer, Gig Harbor, Washington

March 2012-December 2012

Campaign Manager

- Worked with candidate and campaign team to develop and implement campaign plan, strategy and budget
- Successfully worked to keep other potential Democratic party candidates out of the primary election
- Interviewed, hired and managed our consultants for fundraising, media, mail and research

U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell, Seattle, Washington

December 2010-March 2012

Campaign Manager

October 2011-March 2012

- Developed reelection plan for 2012 campaign and positioned the Senator for an easier path to reelection
- Hired and managed consultants for fundraising, mail, media, strategy and research

State Director

December 2010-October 2011

- Developed in-state strategy, assisted priority policy development and provided communications support
- Managed staff of eighteen in-state employees and coordinated their efforts in representing the Senator at events, providing assistance to constituents, building the Senator's in-state schedule, authoring of correspondence to constituents and meeting the Senator's in-state objectives

Washington State Senate Democratic Campaign Committee, Seattle, Washington

March 2006-December 2010

Executive Director

- Identified and recruited candidates to run in targeted legislative districts
- Worked with freshman and vulnerable state senators on communications efforts
- Oversaw direct mail, communications, media, staff and budgets for all state senate races and analyzed past election performance, fundraising and other data to develop targeting strategy

Office of the Governor, Olympia, Washington

February 2005-March 2006

Puget Sound Regional Manger

- Designed and instituted outreach plans for Governor Gregoire in the Puget Sound region
- Maintained and developed relationships for the Governor with community, non-profit, business, labor and civic leaders to address their concerns and build political support for the Governor's initiatives

- Gregoire for Governor Campaign, Seattle, Washington** November 2005-February 2005
Recount Field Director
- Coordinated field recount strategy and execution with legal, communications and field teams
 - Hired and managed staff and volunteers to observe the initial count, the machine recount and the manual recount in each county and oversaw absentee signature collection and data collection and analysis
- Washington State Coordinated Campaign, Seattle, Washington** March 2004-November 2004
Deputy Director
- Assisted in the development of the state campaign plan for presidential, statewide and local elections
 - Hired, trained and managed a sixty-person staff and secured resources to support the campaign's efforts
- Edwards for President, California, Nevada, Oklahoma and Washington states** July 2003-March 2004
State Director/Deputy State Director
- Developed statewide communications, field and get-out-the-vote plans for each state and managed campaign teams
 - Managed and built relationships with local elected officials and donors
- City of Seattle, Office of Policy and Management, Seattle, Washington** November 2002-July 2003
Community Development Specialist
- Created and instituted outreach plans for communities of interest to the Mayor
 - Developed public forums, informational materials and built public support for the Mayor's agenda
- Low Income Housing Levy, Seattle, Washington** May 2002-October 2002
Campaign Manager
- Developed and implemented campaign plan, including communications and get-out-the-vote strategy
 - Built and maintained broad-based network of community supporters
- Nickels for Mayor, Seattle, Washington** June 2001-December 2001
Field Director/Deputy Campaign Manager
- Devised outreach plan for Seattle constituency and neighborhood groups
 - Analyzed polling and precinct data to create targeted message and voter mobilization strategies
- Washington State Coordinated Campaign, Shoreline, Washington** April 2000-November 2000
Director, 1st Congressional District
- Hired and managed staff for the Democratic party and oversaw voter identification and persuasion efforts in support of the presidential, statewide and local Democratic party campaigns
- Washington State Coordinated Campaign, Kennewick, Washington** June 1998-November 1998
Organizer, 4th Congressional District
- Organized central Washington for the state democratic party in support of U.S. Senator Patty Murray's campaign
 - Oversaw voter identification program and get-out-the-vote efforts with an emphasis on the Latino community

EDUCATION

University of Washington, Seattle, Washington
 Bachelor of Arts, Spanish



City of Seattle
Edward B. Murray, Mayor

NEWS RELEASE **FROM THE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact: Jason Kelly, Seattle Mayor's Office, 206.684.8379

MURRAY HIRES NEW COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR, HEAD OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

Benton Strong from the Center for American Progress in Washington, D.C. to relocate on August 1; mayoral staffer Chris Gregorich to become City's new top lobbyist

Seattle Mayor Ed Murray announced two major personnel changes to his executive team today. Benton Strong, who currently serves as Managing Director of Communications at the Center for American Progress (CAP), a respected think tank in Washington, D.C., has been named the new Communications Director in the Mayor's Office. Chris Gregorich, who currently serves as Director for Strategic Initiatives in the Mayor's Office, will become the Director of the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs (OIR), replacing Nick Harper, who has announced that he is leaving his position for a new position outside the city with a regional focus.

"I am pleased to add the talents and deep experience of Benton Strong to our senior team in the Mayor's Office," Murray said. "He is one of the best and brightest, and will play an instrumental role in moving the City's progressive agenda forward."

Strong, a Seattle native who grew up in Yesler Terrace before earning a B.A. in Political Science from the University of Washington, is a skilled and experienced communications professional. Previously, he served as National Press Secretary for the Climate Action campaign, and as Communications Director for the Washington State Democrats during Gov. Jay Inslee's gubernatorial race in 2012.

"I am really happy to be returning home to Seattle to join the administration of Mayor Murray. Whether it is leading on adopting a \$15 minimum wage, developing a Grand Bargain between developers and affordable housing advocates to tackle Seattle's housing affordability issues, or passing historic transit and transportation packages to ensure Seattle has the infrastructure in place to cope with growth, Mayor Murray has demonstrated time and again that he knows how to

bring disparate interests together to build consensus around solving important issues. I look forward to helping further those efforts,” Strong said.

Strong will return to Seattle and start work with the City on August 1. In the interim, Jeff Reading, who served as Mayor Murray’s first Communications Director, will provide communication staff support on an eight week, part-time contract through Strategies 360, the public affairs firm where he is Vice President of Communications. The \$20,000 contract will be funded by savings accrued through vacancies in the Mayor’s Office.

Strong will be paid a salary of \$135,000 per year. Gregorich’s salary will be \$145,000 per year. “I’ve really enjoyed my time running the City of Seattle’s multi-tiered governmental outreach agenda, but I’ve been wanting to get back to my home in Snohomish County and this opportunity was too good to pass up,” said Harper, a former state legislator from Everett who will become Director of Strategic Affairs and Governmental Advocacy for the Master Builders Association of King and Snohomish County.

“Nick Harper is a dedicated and dynamic leader who leaves a legacy,” said Murray. “Nick is a trusted advisor, having served as my Deputy Leader in the Senate. He was instrumental in securing ST3 authority in the Legislature, in passing the largest statewide transportation package in Washington history, and in coordinating our first-ever West Coast coalition on homelessness. I’ll miss having him as part of my Administration, but he will remain a close friend and advisor. I wish him the best in his new position. The City is fortunate that, while we’re losing Nick, we have such an experienced problem solver and strategic thinker in Chris Gregorich available to replace him.”

-MoS-

SECTION

B



City of Seattle

Edward B. Murray, Mayor

Seattle Department of Human Resources

Susan L. Coskey, Director

Date: July 8, 2016

To: Adam Schaefer, City Budget Office

From: Melissa Beatty, Internal Operations Director, SDHR

Subject: **BACKGROUND CHECK – Chris Gregorich**

The HR Department has received a copy of Chris Gregorich's background check run by A-Check Global. There were no findings that would impact the employment eligibility of Mr. Gregorich.

cc: Personnel File

