




SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL | DISTRICT 2

COUNCIL PRESIDENT BRUCE HARRELL

MEMORANDUM

To: Councilmembers
From: Council President Bruce Harrell 
Date: January 30, 2018
Subject: Appointment of Ryan Vancil as Hearing Examiner

Attached please find the resume for Ryan Vancil, who is currently serving as the Deputy Hearing Examiner for the City of Seattle and is the recommended nominee for the position of Hearing Examiner for the City of Seattle.

The selection and appointment of the Hearing Examiner is the responsibility of the City Council, by Seattle Municipal Code 3.02.110. The Office of the Hearing Examiner is within the Legislative Branch of the City of Seattle governance structure. Beyond the appointment and confirmation process, the Office of Hearing Examiner is a totally independent department.

Due to the impending retirement of Sue A. Tanner, who has served as the City's Hearing Examiner since 2003, an official search process for a Hearing Examiner was conducted over the past several months. The position was advertised in the local newspapers, several Bar Association list serves, the Washington State Bar Association, the King County Bar Association, and within the City of Seattle's official job listings.

Twenty applications were received and screened by a three-person selection panel. The selection panel consisted of representatives from the Seattle Department of Human Resources, King County Ombudsman, and King County Bar Association per the hiring process described in Seattle Municipal Code 3.02.110.

Five candidates were invited to a first-round interview with this selection panel on November 30 and December 4, 2017. However, one candidate withdrew prior to the scheduled interview. In the debrief with the panel, there was a consensus on the top two candidates and panel support to move all four to Council President for consideration per the SMC requirement.

The second round of interviews for Hearing Examiner was conducted by a four-person panel—Council President Bruce Harrell, Councilmember Rob Johnson (Planning, Land Use and Zoning Committee Chair), Anne Watanabe (a former Deputy Hearing Examiner), and Karen Jackson (the Legislative Department's Human Resources Director). The top two candidates were interviewed on January 18, 2018.

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This panel unanimously ranked Mr. Vancil as the top candidate to move forward. A copy of his resume is attached.

Mr. Vancil was invited to meet with and answer questions by the Special Governance, Equity and Technology (GET) Committee on Tuesday, January 30 at 9:30 a.m. The GET Committee (Councilmembers Bruce Harrell, Lisa Herbold, Rob Johnson, and Teresa Mosqueda) unanimously voted to recommend confirmation to the Full Council. I will refer the appointment to the Full Council on Monday, February 5th.

If you have any questions about the process to date, do contact me or my legislative aide, Jennifer Samuels.