

City of Seattle



Director Office of Economic Development

Confirmation Packet
April 3, 2019

Robert Wonsung Lee



City of Seattle
Mayor Jenny A. Durkan

April 2, 2019

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 Robert “Bobby” Wonsung Lee as Director of the Office of Economic Development (OED).

The materials in this packet are divided into two sections:

A. Robert Wonsung Lee

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

B. Background Checks

This section contains the report on Mr. Lee’s background check.

Bobby Lee is currently the Director of Economic Development for the City of Portland, Oregon, where he oversees a staff of 27 and has responsibility for strategies that foster inclusive economic development with an emphasis on increasing access to high quality jobs, equitable wealth creation and community-led, community-driven economic development initiatives.

Prior to his work with Portland, Bobby was the Regional Solutions Coordinator for Oregon Governor Kate Brown. In this role, he worked to find solutions to the state’s economic and community development challenges, including housing, public health, workforce development, brownfield redevelopment, environmental sustainability, homelessness and land-use planning. Bobby’s accomplishments include OHSU Knight Cancer Institute expansion in Portland South Waterfront, Nike campus expansion in Beaverton, Prosperity 1000 Workforce Equity Initiative, and Troutdale Downtown Riverfront Redevelopment Project, among others.

Bobby holds a Bachelor of Science in Sociology and a Master’s Degree in Planning, Public Policy and Management, both from the University of Oregon.

Bobby’s extensive prior experience in economic and workforce development, and in working with the public, elected officials, civic organizations and private industry to address complex community needs

and deliver results, makes him the perfect fit for the role of Director of the Office of Economic Development.

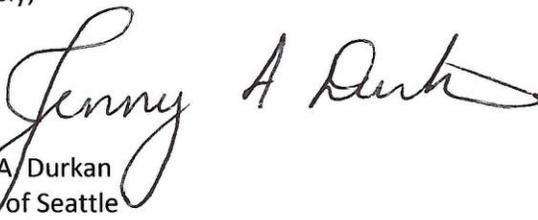
The process used to identify and recommend candidates for my consideration included a search of potential applicants for the position. This was informed by Mayor's Office staff meetings and my own meetings with various stakeholders over the last several months, attending OED-related events, seeing the work of Interim Director Karl Stickel, and evaluating the needs of OED in today's Seattle. I also relied on Mr. Stickel's views.

Outreach was conducted with a diverse set of OED stakeholders to understand input on ideal candidate qualifications. Stakeholders consisted of City staff and residents affected by OED's work. Additionally, we obtained feedback from a variety of OED staff to get their input into the recruitment process and feedback on candidate qualifications.

The selection of Robert "Bobby" Wonsung Lee as the final candidate was also informed by his commitment to racial equity and justice, commitment to promoting an inclusive innovative workforce, his experience with public and private partnerships in the economic development area, and his deep operational knowledge leading a department of this size and complexity.

If you have any questions about the attached materials or need additional information, please contact Senior Deputy Mayor Michael Fong at 206-256-6191, or via e-mail, at michael.fong@seattle.gov.

Sincerely,



Jenny A. Durkan
Mayor of Seattle

SECTION

A



City of Seattle
Mayor Jenny A. Durkan

March 27, 2019

Robert Wonsung Lee
Portland, OR
Transmitted via e-mail

Dear Bobby,

It gives me great pleasure to appoint you to the position of Director of the Office of Economic Development at an annual salary of \$180,000.

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 will serve at the discretion of the Mayor.

Your contingent offer letter provided employment information related to the terms of your employment, benefits, vacation, holiday and sick leave.

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 Economic Development will thrive under your leadership.

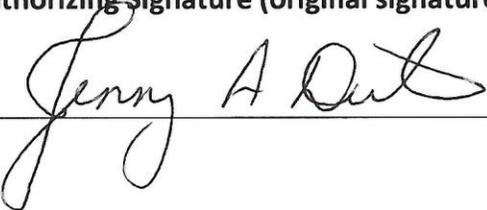
Sincerely,


Jenny A. Durkan
Mayor of Seattle

cc: Seattle Department of Human Resources file



City of Seattle Department Head Notice of Appointment

Appointee Name: <i>Robert Wonsung Lee</i>		
City Department Name: <i>Office of Economic Development</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>City Council Confirmation to Mayor's Discretion</i>
Legislated Authority: <i>Seattle Municipal Code Section 3.14.610</i>		
<p>Background: I have appointed Robert "Bobby" Wonsung Lee because of his commitment to racial equity and justice, commitment to promoting an inclusive innovative workforce, his experience with public and private partnerships in the economic development area, and his deep operational knowledge leading a department of this size and complexity.</p> <p>Bobby is currently the Director of Economic Development for the City of Portland, Oregon, where he oversees a staff of 27 and has responsibility for strategies that foster inclusive economic development with an emphasis on increasing access to high quality jobs, equitable wealth creation and community-led, community-driven economic development initiatives.</p> <p>Prior to his work with Portland, Bobby was the Regional Solutions Coordinator for Oregon Governor Kate Brown. In this role, he worked to find solutions to the state's economic and community development challenges, including housing, public health, workforce development, brownfield redevelopment, environmental sustainability, homelessness and land-use planning. Bobby's accomplishments include OHSU Knight Cancer Institute expansion in Portland South Waterfront, Nike campus expansion in Beaverton, Prosperity 1000 Workforce Equity Initiative, and Troutdale Downtown Riverfront Redevelopment Project, among others.</p> <p>Bobby holds a Bachelor of Science in Sociology and a Master's Degree in Planning, Public Policy and Management, both from the University of Oregon.</p> <p>Bobby's extensive prior experience in economic and workforce development, and in working with the public, elected officials, civic organizations and private industry to address complex community needs and deliver results, makes him the perfect fit for the role of Director of the Office of Economic Development.</p>		
Date of Appointment: <i>4/1/2019</i>	Authorizing Signature (original signature): 	Appointing Signatory: <i>Jenny A. Durkan</i> <i>Mayor</i>



**CITY OF SEATTLE - STATE OF WASHINGTON
OATH OF OFFICE**

STATE OF WASHINGTON

COUNTY OF KING

I, Robert Wonsung Lee, 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 Economic Development; 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 Economic Development*.

Robert Wonsung Lee

**Subscribed and sworn to before me
this _____ day of _____, 2019**

(affix seal)

Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk

EDUCATION

Master's Degree in Planning, Public Policy and Management - 1998

University of Oregon; Major: Public Administration

Bachelor of Science - 1994

University of Oregon; Major: Sociology

* President - Associated Students at University of Oregon

EMPLOYMENT AND LEADERSHIP

Director of Economic Development – City of Portland

PROSPER PORTLAND, FORMERLY PORTLAND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (2017 – PRESENT; OREGON)

1. Serves as City of Portland's director of economic development responsible for strategies that foster inclusive economic development with an emphasis on increasing access to high quality employment, equitable wealth creation, and community capacity to support business vitality.
2. Provide leadership for 27-member department to promote inclusive economic development best practices, including cluster theory, small business support, entrepreneurship and innovation, affordable commercial tenancing, traded sector industry development, neighborhood prosperity initiatives and international trade.
3. Report regularly to the Mayor and City Commissioners, Prosper Portland Board of Commissioners and executive director on high centered initiatives related to economic development. Collaborate regularly with the region's key partners including Governor's Office, Port of Portland, Metro, Business Oregon, Greater Portland Inc, Portland Business Alliance, Business for Better Portland, Technology Association of Oregon, Oregon Health & Science University, international associations and the Innovation Quadrant.
4. Responsible for preparation and administration of the department budget utilizing TIF, general funds, Community Development Block Grants, enterprise zone funds and other resources. Oversees development of internal systems for economic development project management and program delivery including the development of metrics and messaging to communicate the impacts of the department's efforts.
5. Develop the overall strategic direction and methodology for community-led, community-driven, and/or community-focused economic development initiatives to promote the growth of neighborhood small businesses, connect residents to employment, and steer local development towards community desired solutions.
6. Drive development and implementation of a cross-cutting, inclusive entrepreneurial and innovation strategy to support growth of diverse start-up and emerging Portland based companies. Ensure programs provide continuum of support for growing firms with diverse founders and identify opportunities to further strategic partnerships with higher education around R&D and tech-transfer.
7. Responsible for the development and implementation of Mayor Ted Wheeler's Portland Means Progress public campaign to encourage business community to provide career development opportunities for people of color and women, and, to support small businesses by using local vendors.
8. Directs economic research, tracking and monitoring efforts in collaboration with other departments.

Regional Solutions Coordinator - Office of Governor Kate Brown

STATE OF OREGON - EXECUTIVE BRANCH (2011 - 2017; OREGON)

1. Appointed by the Governor to manage the Regional Solutions Team (RST), an integrated state agency team, to solve the state's priority economic and community development challenges, including housing, public health, workforce development, brownfield redevelopment, environmental sustainability, homelessness and land-use planning.
2. Meet regularly with the Governor and state agency directors to prioritize, coordinate and align planning, funding, and service deliveries. Work closely with legislators, local elected officials, public agencies, private industries and community-based organizations to identify and solve the region's highest economic and community development priorities.
3. Coordinate cross-agency teams to manage complex projects and implement work plans. Oversee the monitoring of budget, legal, policy and contractual compliance. Provided qualitative and quantitative analysis of regional economic, workforce and poverty trends to ensure projects are meeting social equity, housing and sustainability goals.
4. Act as an ombudsman for businesses navigating regulatory processes. Resolve agency conflicts and manage state responses to issues brought forth by local governments, businesses, tribal nations and other partners located or operating in the region.
5. Regional projects include: OHSU Knight Cancer Institute expansion in Portland South Waterfront; Nike campus expansion in Beaverton; Industrial Land Supply Readiness including Troutdale Reynolds Industrial Park, Gresham Vista Industrial Park, Portland Colwood Industrial Site, and North Hillsboro Industrial Park; Prosperity 1000 Workforce Equity Initiative; Oregon Regional Accelerator Innovation Network (RAIN); Willamette Falls Legacy Project in Oregon City; Columbia Corridor Levee Ready; Portland 82nd Ave Revitalization; NE Portland's Cully Neighborhood Revitalization; and, Troutdale Downtown Riverfront Redevelopment Project.
6. The following state agencies are members of the RST: Business Oregon, Oregon Department of Transportation, Department of Land Conservation and Development, Department of Environmental Quality, Oregon Department of Energy, Oregon Housing and Community Services, Oregon Department of Agriculture, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, Oregon Department of State Lands, and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.
7. Staffed the RST Advisory Committee who are appointed by the Governor. Members consist of elected officials and executives from Metro, Port of Portland, City of Portland, PGE, Clackamas County, Multnomah County, Washington County, Meyer Memorial Trust, Portland State University, Portland Family of Funds and Greater Portland, Inc.

Division Head for Corporate Communications, Strategic Planning and Environmental Services

HYNIX SEMICONDUCTOR MANUFACTURING AMERICA, INC. - PRIVATE HIGH TECH INDUSTRY (2005 - 2011; EUGENE, OREGON)

1. Hynix Semiconductor, Inc. is the second largest semiconductor memory manufacturer in the world with more than 26,000 employees worldwide. The Eugene fabrication facility is the south valley region's largest high-tech fabrication plant with 1,500 employees.
2. Responsible for all functions of corporate and government affairs. Provided strategic and tactical guidance and action plans to the CEO in areas of communications, strategic planning and investor relations. Coordinated with international investor relations teams to ensure consistent and timely communications with global media outlets and stakeholders. Served as the company's official spokesperson.
3. Responsible for government affairs, including negotiating power contracts, enterprise zone, transportation and environmental regulatory compliance issues. Tracked and lobbied legislations at the local, state and federal level.
4. Responsible for six-person environmental service division. Developed and implemented corporate responsibility and sustainability programs across the organization. Devised the company's overall strategic direction (Ten Point Sustainability Plan) to address greenhouse

gas reduction, stormwater management, air permits, wetland management, re-introduction of threatened species, and, energy and water conservation.

5. Participated in international trade missions to Asia including with Governor Ted Kulongoski and Business Oregon representatives in 2007.
6. Responsible for division's budget, policies and rules, company's performance measurement and company-wide team building activities.
7. Developed and delivered cross-cultural communications training for company employees.

Principal Public Affairs Consultant

RL & ASSOCIATES PUBLIC RELATIONS COMPANY (2004 - 2005; PORTLAND, OREGON)

1. Provided public affairs, public policy, and corporate responsibility consultation.
2. Conducted voter profiling, opinion, and attitudinal research to develop messages to motivate targeted voters. Developed policy analysis on Oregon's high-centered public issues, including economic development, international trade, education reform and health care.

Director of Organizational Affairs and Communications

WORKSYSTEMS, INC. - NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION (2000 - 2004; PORTLAND, OREGON)

1. Assumed a leadership position within the largest workforce development agency in Oregon, overseeing a \$24-million annual budget. As part of the executive team, provided strategic direction in line with the agency's vision and mission to bring prosperity to underserved population.
2. Designated by US Department of Labor, Oregon governor and local elected officials representing City of Portland, Multnomah County and Washington County as the region's workforce development agency.
3. Managed all aspect of organizational advancement functions including strategic planning, board development, government relations, public affairs and branding, budget, policy development and performance evaluation. Established policies, procedures, and work standards to ensure consistency with expectations for services and effective operation of the agency. Responsible for managing a 12 member department team.
4. Responsible for coordinating and leveraging the region's workforce development system in concert with human services, private industry, economic development agencies and education institutions.
5. Authored annual workforce demographic, poverty and economic reports named "State of the Region".
6. Co-founder of Oregon Workforce Partnership and Northwestern States Workforce Association. Organized numerous federal legislative visits and press events in Washington, D.C., with key members of congress.

Director

LANE BUSINESS EDUCATION COMPACT - NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION (1998 - 2000; EUGENE, OREGON)

1. Founder of an intermediary nonprofit organization that assisted in the development of career related academic programs for the region's employers and 16 school districts, as required by Oregon's Educational Reform Act of the 21st Century.
2. Developed individualized career and academic plans for high school students and authored a regional progress report on high school education reform activities. Worked to provide career development programs for disadvantaged youth.
3. Worked in alignment with the region's employers including Symantec, Hyundai Semiconductor America (Hynix), Umpqua Bank, and State of Oregon to develop academic and skill standards. Assisted in the improvement of high school curricula to better relate to workplace requirements.

Eugene City Councilor – President

CITY OF EUGENE – LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIAL (ELECTED 1996 – 2000; PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL 1999 – 2000; EUGENE, OREGON)

1. Set legislative and policy direction for the city of Eugene relating to human rights, land use, transportation, urban renewal projects, housing and human services, economic development, police and fire services, downtown planning and environmental services.
2. Regularly interacted and negotiated with diverse groups, including all levels of government agencies, community groups, businesses, and stakeholders. Served as president of the city council in 1999 to 2000.
3. Successfully worked to pass two ballot measures to build a new main library downtown (urban renewal project) and expand parks and open space. Led the effort to revitalize downtown through high-density housing and urban renewal projects, while expanding services to underserved population by integrating the city's recreational services with social service organizations.

Chief of Staff

STATE SENATOR SUSAN CASTILLO (D) - OREGON STATE LEGISLATURE (1997; SALEM, OREGON)

1. Managed all legislative activities, including constituent affairs, media relations, bill tracking, and stakeholder communications. Negotiated daily with diverse advocacy groups and government representatives.
2. Liaison to the Senate Education Committee.

Oregon State Board of Higher Education – Board Member

OREGON STATE SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION (1994 – 1996)

1. Appointed by Governor Barbara Roberts and confirmed by State Senate. Developed policy direction for Oregon's seven public universities, including Oregon Health & Science University Oregon State University and University of Oregon. Oversaw an annual budget of \$1.4 billion, and performance evaluation of a chancellor and university presidents.
2. Developed educational objectives for the state by working in alignment with private industry consortiums, State Legislature, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, State Board of Education and community colleges. Advanced tuition and financial aid equity policies to address recruitment and retention of students of color.
3. Successfully transformed Oregon Health & Science University into a public corporation governance structure to better compete in the rapidly changing health care market.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Worksystems, Inc., Board member (2013-2016)
- The Intertwine Alliance, Board member (2014-2016)
- Asian American Chamber of Commerce, Board member (2013-2015)
- Asian Council, Board member (2010-2012)
- Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce, Board member (2006-2008)
- Lane Metro Partnership, Board member (2006-2008)
- Lane Workforce Partnership, Board president (1998-2000; 2006-2009)
- SW Oregon United Way, Board member (2005-2009)
- University of Oregon Alumni Association, Board member (2005-2008)
- Committed Partners for Youth, Board member (2005-2008)
- Eugene YMCA Board of Directors, Board member (1996-1998; 2005-2007)
- Food for Lane County, Board member (2005-2007)
- Northwestern States Workforce Association, Founding member (2003-2005)
- City of Portland, Public Involvement Committee (2003)
- Portland City Club, Member (2002-2003)

- Oregon Workforce Partnership, Vice-chair (2001-2004)
- Lane County Convention and Visitors Association, Board member (1998-1999)
- Lane County Public Safety Coordinating Council (1998-2000)
- Human Rights Commission (1998-2000)
- Oregon Water Advisory Committee – League of Oregon Cities, member (1998-1999)
- West University Neighborhood Association, Board chair (1997-2000)
- McKenzie Watershed Council, Board member (1997-1998)
- Southwestern Planned Parenthood, Board member (1996-1997)



NEWS RELEASE FROM THE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Mark Prentice, mark.prentice@seattle.gov

Mayor Jenny Durkan Announces New City Leaders Focused on Parks and Recreation, Economic Development, and Combating Harassment, Discrimination and Other Workplace Misconduct

SEATTLE (March 28, 2019) – Mayor Jenny A. Durkan announced today three new City of Seattle leaders focused on promoting access to Seattle’s parks and recreation opportunities, fostering economic development, and addressing harassment and discrimination in the City workplace as the first-ever leader of the City’s newly-created and independent Office of the Employee Ombud.

First, Mayor Durkan will nominate Jesús S. Aguirre as Superintendent of the Department of Parks & Recreation (SPR), a role Mr. Aguirre previously served in from June 2015 to January 2018. Prior to his service to the City of Seattle, Jesús served as the State Superintendent of Education in Washington, D.C., and as the Director of the District of Columbia Departments of Parks and Recreation, among many other roles in government and public service.

“We are excited to welcome Jesús Aguirre back to the City family and to Seattle Parks & Recreation,” said Mayor Durkan. “Jesús has a track record of working collaboratively and with community to help make Seattle a more inclusive, just, and beautiful place. Under his leadership, Seattle Parks & Recreation will continue to promote healthy people, a healthy environment, and strong communities.”

“It’s an honor to be nominated by Mayor Durkan to serve as the Superintendent of Parks and Recreation. As Seattle continues to grow and change, parks and recreation will play a key role in enhancing the livability of our city, and in ensuring that it is truly accessible and affordable to all,” said Jesús Aguirre. “Seattle has one of the best parks and recreation systems in the country and I look forward to working the Mayor, the Council, the parks and recreation team, and our many community partners to responsibly steward this great system as we work to support a healthy environment, healthy people, and strong communities.”

Second, Mayor Durkan will nominate Bobby Lee as the next director of the City’s Office of Economic Development. Mr. Lee currently serves as the Director of Economic Development for the City of Portland. Prior to his service with the City of Portland, Bobby served in the Office of Governor Kate Brown as the Regional Solutions Coordinator, where he led an integrated team

focused on solving the state's economic and community development challenges. In addition to working in the private sector and for advocacy organizations, including Oregon's largest workforce development agency, Mr. Lee also previously served on the City Council in Eugene, Oregon.

"As our City grows and faces unprecedented challenges on affordability, Bobby is the right person to lead the Office of Economic Development and help foster a strong, inclusive economy and promote true opportunity for all," said Mayor Durkan.

"I am deeply honored to join the City of Seattle and Mayor Jenny Durkan's team as the Director of Economic Development," said Bobby Lee. "When I saw the Mayor's recent State of the City address, I knew I wanted to work with her. Her vision to build an economy that is inclusive and widely shared is the same one I have spent much of my career working to achieve. I hope to be an agent of positive change for all of Seattle."

Third, Mayor Durkan announced she will nominate Dr. Amarah Khan as the first-ever Director of the City's newly created Office of the Employee Ombud (OEO).

Dr. Khan currently serves as the Director of Equity and Inclusive Practices at the Renton School District. Prior to that, she served as the Associate Director for Global Diversity Initiatives at Oregon State University (OSU). At OSU, she worked to advance cultural competence on campus through shared learning and trainings. Dr. Khan spent her early career working as a humanitarian aid worker across South Asia and the United States. She is an international development scholar with extensive background in conflict management and peace studies.

"I join City of Seattle employees in welcoming Dr. Amarah Khan to our incredible workforce. Dr. Khan is an inspirational woman who is deeply dedicated to creating a safe and inclusive work environment that gives City employees the support they need," said Mayor Durkan. "Over the past year, we have worked with urgency to make significant changes to our City government, elevating the voices of those most impacted."

"The opportunity to serve one of the best cities in the world is a distinct honor. This work has become my calling in life, and I am so excited to join hands with City employees who wish to improve the ways we lift each other up," said Dr. Khan. "Change won't happen overnight, but City employees will always have my impartial and honest support. I look forward to being in service to a great community."

In December 2018, the City Council [voted unanimously to](#) pass Mayor Durkan's legislation to create the OEO. The OEO was one of the [central recommendations](#) of the Anti-Harassment Interdepartmental Team (IDT), which Mayor Durkan [established in January 2018](#) to review the City's policies on harassment, discrimination, and other forms of misconduct.

Led by Dr. Khan, the OEO will be a safe, confidential space for City employees to discuss workplace concerns, including harassment, discrimination, and other forms of misconduct. The

Ombud will help employees navigate all their options when it comes to addressing workplace culture, but it will not conduct investigations. While Dr. Khan works in the coming weeks to stand up the office, she will hold a series of listening sessions with City employees to further shape the mission and work plan of the office.

In addition, Mayor Durkan announced that Steve Walker, Director of the City's Office of Housing, will depart the City this summer.

"I am grateful to Steve for his years of service to Seattle and for all his work to address one of the central challenges facing Seattle: affordable housing. Under his leadership, the Office of Housing has forged strong community partnerships and has worked to build housing in every part of the City," said Mayor Durkan. "Working with communities and our partners across the region, we will continue to build more affordable housing as quickly as possible."

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SECTION

B



City of Seattle

Seattle Department of Human Resources

Bobby Humes, Acting Director

March 25, 2019

TO: Adam Schaefer, City Budget Office
FROM: Bobby Humes, Acting Director 
SUBJECT: Background check for Robert "Bobby" Wonsung Lee

The Seattle Department of Human Resources has received a copy of Mr. Lee's background check run by A-Check Global. There were no finds that would impact his employment eligibility.

Cc: Personnel File

Seattle Department of Human Resources

Seattle Municipal Tower, 700 5th Avenue Suite 5500, PO Box 34028, Seattle, WA 98124-4028
(206) 684-7999 • TTY:7-1-1 Fax: (206) 684-4157 • Employment Website: www.seattle.gov/jobs
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