

May 29, 2019

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Housing, Health, Energy and Workers' Rights Committee  
**From:** Eric McConaghy, Legislative Analyst  
**Subject:** City Light Review Panel Council Appointment: Financial Analyst Position

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### Decision

On June 6, 2019, the Housing, Health, Energy and Workers' Rights Committee (Committee) is scheduled to consider Councilmember Mosqueda's appointment of Mikhaila Gonzales to serve in the Financial Analyst position (#2) on the Seattle City Light Review Panel (Panel). The decision before the Committee is to recommend Council's approval of the appointment of Ms. Gonzales to the Panel.

Ms. Gonzales is a Project Manager for Spark Northwest. She leads the Access Solar program at Spark Northwest and supports Solar Plus State Energy Strategy work across Oregon and Washington. Also, she serves on the Emerald Cities' Executive Committee and Seattle Environmental Justice Committee's 100% Renewable Energy Workgroup. Mikhaila Gonzales' appointment packet is attached to the Committee agenda.

### Background

The Panel is comprised of nine members drawn from among City Light's customers, occupying nine positions with the following characteristics:

- An economist or similar profession (Position #1);
- A financial analyst or similar profession (Position #2);
- A representative of a non-profit or non-governmental organization whose mission is to advocate for the efficient use of energy (Position #3);
- A representative from among City Light's residential customers (Position #4);
- A representative from among City Light's commercial customers (Position #5);
- A representative from among City Light's industrial customers (Position #6);
- A representative from among the advocates for City Light's low-income customers (Position #7);
- At large (Position #8); and
- A representative from among City Light's suburban franchise areas (Position #9).

The Panel was created in 2010 through [Ordinance 123256](#); and the role, funding and administrative support for the Panel was clarified in 2015 through [Ordinance 124740](#). As established in Ordinance 123256, the role of the Panel is to:

- Review and assess City Light's strategic plan and provide an opinion on the merits of the plan and future revisions to it to the Mayor and the Council;
- Assist the Mayor and the Council in engaging rate payers in discussions of the merits and implications of the strategic plan and revisions thereto;
- Review changes to City Light's rates not already authorized by the Seattle Municipal Code and provide an opinion to the Mayor and Council on the adequacy and prudence of rate changes;
- Work with City staff to propose a biennial work program for the Panel to the Mayor and Council; and
- Analyze and make recommendations to the Mayor and Council on significant elements of the City Light strategic plan.

The Mayor appoints the odd-numbered positions and the Council appoints the even-numbered positions. Practically, this means that the Chair of the Committee appoints the Council-appointed positions. All appointed Panel members must be confirmed by the City Council. The term for each position is three years. The beginning and end date for terms are fixed and tied to the position (not tied to the appointment date).

The term for the Financial Analyst position runs from April 2017 to April 2020. The position is currently vacant.

### **Next Steps**

If the Committee recommends confirmation of the appointments to the Council, the Council would take action on the appointments as soon as June 10, 2019.

cc: Kirstan Arestad, Central Staff Director  
Dan Eder, Deputy Director