

City of Seattle



**Director
Office of Intergovernmental
Relations**

**Confirmation Packet
March 24, 2022**

Gael D. Tarleton



March 24, 2022

The Honorable Debora Juarez
President, Seattle City Council
Seattle City Hall, 2nd Floor
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Council President Juarez:

It is my pleasure to transmit to the City Council the following confirmation packet for my appointment of Gael D. Tarleton as Director of the Office of Intergovernmental Relations.

The materials in this packet are divided into two sections:

A. Gael Tarleton

This section contains Ms. Tarleton appointment and oath of office forms, her resume, and the press release announcing her appointment.

B. Background Check

This section contains the report on Ms. Tarleton's background check.

The City of Seattle's success is tied to the success of our region, our tribal neighbors, our state, our country, and to countries around the world. That success is tied to fostering strong relationships with our partners, and Gael Tarleton is *the* person to build and strengthen those ties as Seattle's Director of the Office of Intergovernmental Relations (OIR).

Gael Tarleton brings experience of both breadth and depth, including in elected public service on the Seattle Port Commission and eight years as a State Representative of the 36th Legislative District. In the time she has served as Interim Director of OIR, she's evidenced the merits of her experience navigating both government systems and relationships with state and regional policymakers. She also brings extensive experience working with foreign governments and international organizations, which bolsters her work supporting my and Councilmembers' connections to our consular community and international sister cities. As I drafted my Executive Order on Ukraine, she and the OIR's International Affairs Director's insight were invaluable.

Foundational to my forwarding Gael's nomination for your consideration was hearing that she has the trust of City Councilmembers to represent your interests as much as she does my own. She prioritizes making herself and her team accessible to each of you, and I can point to several bills in this most recent legislative session that were improved due to her and her team's advocacy. Further, as the City seeks additional fiscal resources to support a myriad of needs, we all only benefit from Gael's experience in federal government, at the Port of Seattle, and as former Chair of the Finance Committee in the State House of Representatives. Gael brings a thoughtful ear, a diplomatic mind, and a commitment to advocating for the best interest of the people of Seattle. At the same time, she has a firm commitment to a more equitable, inclusive, and respectful workplace.

I nominated Gael Tarleton as Interim Director last December. In the time since, my office consulted with stakeholders regarding her performance, including Councilmembers, Council Legislative Aides, staff at the Office of Intergovernmental Relations, state legislators, county councilmembers, and tribal representatives. The resounding conclusion from stakeholders was that Gael Tarleton has the resolve, temperament, and diplomatic skills needed to represent our City with distinction. Review of her impressive work this last legislative session and the strong support shown by the affected stakeholders is the process that informed my decision to advance Ms. Tarleton for your consideration today.

I trust that after reviewing Gael's application materials, meeting with her, and following your thoughtful Governance, Native Communities & Tribal Governments Committee review, you will find that she is well situated to serve as permanent Director of the Office of Intergovernmental Relations.

If you have any questions about the attached materials or need additional information, Senior Deputy Mayor Monisha Harrell would welcome hearing from you. I appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bruce A. Harrell". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Bruce A. Harrell
Mayor of Seattle

SECTION

A



City of Seattle

Mayor Bruce Harrell

March 17, 2022

Gael D. Tarleton
Seattle, WA
Transmitted via e-mail

Dear Gael,

It gives me great pleasure to appoint you to the position of Director of the Office of Intergovernmental Relations at an annual salary of \$150,002.

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.

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 will thrive under your leadership.

Sincerely,


A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bruce A. Harrell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bruce A. Harrell
Mayor of Seattle

cc: Seattle Department of Human Resources file



City of Seattle Department Head Notice of Appointment

Appointee Name: <i>Gael D. Tarleton</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>City Council Confirmation to Mayor's Discretion</i>
Legislated Authority: <i>Seattle Municipal Code Section 3.14.410</i>		
Background: Gael Tarleton brings experience of both breadth and depth, including in elected public service on the Seattle Port Commission and eight years as a State Representative of the 36th Legislative District. In the time she has served as Interim Director of the Office of Intergovernmental Relations, she's evidenced the merits of her experience navigating both government systems and relationships with state and regional policymakers. She also brings extensive experience working with foreign governments and international organizations, which bolsters her work supporting the City's connections to our consular community and international sister cities.		
Date of Appointment: <i>3/24/2022</i>	Authorizing Signature (original signature): 	Appointing Signatory: <i>Bruce A. Harrell</i> <i>Mayor</i>



CITY OF SEATTLE ▪ STATE OF WASHINGTON
OATH OF OFFICE

State of Washington

County of King

I, Gael D. Tarleton, swear or affirm that I possess all of the qualifications prescribed in the Seattle City Charter and the Seattle Municipal Code for the position of the 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 the Director of the Office of Intergovernmental Relations.

Gael D. Tarleton

Subscribed and sworn to before me

this ____ day of _____, 2022.

[Seal]

Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk

**Gael D. Tarleton
Interim Director
Office of Intergovernmental Relations
City of Seattle**



PUBLIC SECTOR EMPLOYMENT

City of Seattle, January 2022-present

Interim Director, Office of Intergovernmental Relations. Leadership of the office chartered in 1979 to support government-to-government relations for the Mayor's Office and the City Council. Prioritized hiring a diverse team to fill key vacancies for OIR Deputy Director, Tribal Relations Director, Federal Affairs Director, and Senior Government Affairs Program Manager; supporting the Mayor's Office and Council legislative agenda for the state legislative session from January 10th-March 10th; and developing a federal funding strategy to focus City staff on pursuing specific opportunities under the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).

University of Washington, Seattle, 2004-2012 (Full-time 2004-2007; Half-Time 2008-2012)

Research Adviser, Pacific Rim Visualization and Analytics Center (PARVAC), Department of Human-Centered Design and Engineering, College of Engineering, 2007-2012. Adviser to PARVAC Director and his customers at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (Richland, WA) regarding emergency planning, preparedness, resilience, and recovery from man-made and natural disasters, with special emphasis on terrorist threats, cyber attacks, and catastrophic earthquakes.

Strategic Adviser, Institute for National Security Education and Research (INSER), Information School, 2006-2012. Adviser to INSER Program Manager and his customers at the U.S. National Intelligence Council.

Director, Corporate and Foundation Relations, College of Arts and Sciences, 2004-2006. Hired by the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences during UW's capital campaign. Led \$3 million initiative to endow the Herbert J. Ellison Center for Russian, East European, and Central Asian Studies in honor of UW's distinguished History Professor, Herb Ellison. Helped faculty in various UW departments win an additional \$5 million in gifts and grants.

Senior Defense Intelligence Analyst, U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA), Washington, DC, 1981-1990

During my 9-year career at DIA, I rose through the ranks as a Soviet strategic nuclear forces intelligence analyst, promoted to a GS-15 Senior Intelligence Officer in 1989.

- DIA's leading expert on Soviet strategic nuclear forces and operations,
- Routinely briefed senior defense, Joint Chiefs of Staff, intelligence, and Congressional officials and provided direct intelligence support to U.S. strategic commands and allies.
- From 1986 to 1990, I chaired interagency intelligence committees and co-authored several national intelligence estimates assessing Soviet strategic nuclear plans and programs.
- Recipient of Director of Central Intelligence's National Intelligence Medal of Achievement.

ELECTED OFFICE

WA State Representative, 36th District (NW Seattle neighborhoods), 2013-2020

Finance Chair, 2019-2020

Appropriations Committee, 2019-2020

Majority Floor Leader, 2016-2019

Technology and Economic Development Vice-Chair, 2014-2018

Transportation Committee, 2013-2018

Higher Education Committee, 2013-2018

Tenant protection laws. Authored WA state's first-ever Safe Keys Act, requiring landlords to secure master keys to protect the safety and security of tenants living in apartments around the state.

Preparing students for jobs in the trades. Worked with a bipartisan team of legislators to restore \$440 million in funding career and technical education in Grades 8-12 state-wide, to support preparing students for jobs in the manufacturing, maritime, construction, and other trades.

Devised legislative strategy to win progressive revenue victories. As House Finance Chair and member of House-Senate Budget Leadership Team, developed strategy to pass four progressive revenue packages in 2019 session: state's first-ever, 4-tiered progressive real estate excise tax to fund affordable housing and expanded property tax deduction for seniors and disabled veterans; 4-tiered progressive B&O tax to fully fund student scholarships for college and apprenticeships; prime-sponsored first-ever windfall profits tax on financial institutions with \$1 billion in annual profits to support working families and childcare providers; and progressive taxes on oil and gas companies to expand funding for Puget Sound clean-up and protections against oil and hazardous waste spills.

Lead negotiator on 100% clean electricity law. As House Finance Chair and House prime sponsor, led negotiations among legislative colleagues in the House and Senate and coordinated with executive branch officials, 63 public and investor-owned utilities, environmental advocates, and labor leaders to pass one of the nation's strongest 100-percent clean electricity laws in 2019.

Seattle Center Free Health Clinic for medical/dental/vision/mental health services. Prime sponsored the legislation in partnership with Seattle Center to allow volunteer health professionals from within the state and around the country to volunteer their services at the annual free health clinic at Key Arena.

Creating the Northwest Seaport Alliance. Co-authored the bipartisan legislation to create the Northwest Seaport Alliance, which created the first-ever Port of Seattle-Port of Tacoma joint alliance governed by a joint body of elected Commissioners.

Port of Seattle Commissioner, elected King County-wide, 2008-2013

Transparency and fiscal responsibility in public works projects. Commission President, Vice President, and Commission Audit Committee Chair. Co-authored the Port Commission's charter document to establish the Commission's first-ever internal Audit Committee. Drafted with port employees a new Port Procurement Policy to govern the solicitation, award, and management of Port public works projects.

Political and fiscal leadership through Great Recession. First elected in 2007 and re-elected in 2011, I was only the third woman to serve as a Port of Seattle Commissioner in the port's 100+ year history. The Great Recession defined my tenure as Commissioner. Through the recession we kept

people working, creating 7,000 jobs on Port public works projects. I resigned my Commission in January 2013 to serve in the WA State House.

Ensuring healthy communities in port neighborhoods. Worked with Seattle City Council to get port trucks off neighborhood streets in South Seattle. Led the Port's Clean Air initiative to remove thousands of tons of diesel particulates from the Puget Sound airshed, a U.S.-Canadian joint effort among the Ports of Seattle, Tacoma, and Vancouver, British Columbia.

PRIVATE SECTOR EMPLOYMENT

Senior manager with significant staff recruitment and retention experience, proposal writer, international business diplomacy and operations, program development and management of multi-million dollar federal contracts, expert on federal contracting and procurement laws and regulations.

Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC), Vice President Corporate Development and International Business Director, Seattle, WA, and McLean, VA, 1990-2002

Led U.S. Government into Russia post-Cold War. The largest private employee-owned technology company in the nation until its initial public offering in 2007, SAIC was a Fortune 300 company that grew from 9,000 to 43,000 employees during my 12 years. I held numerous leadership roles, serving in line management and chairing corporate initiatives. Launched SAIC's business in Russia, Ukraine, and Eastern Europe in 1992 and served as Business Manager for Russian and Ukrainian operations under SAIC's wholly owned subsidiary, SAIC Global Technology (GT).

Created and led ground-breaking U.S.-Russian technology cooperation. The U.S. Office of the Secretary of Defense for Nuclear Treaties and the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, together with the Department of the Army, Department of Energy, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and Environmental Protection Agency, were SAIC GT's steady customers. I served as Program Manager for the 5-year, \$11 million Russian Monitoring Technologies Program, which pioneered U.S.-Russian science and technology programs to produce nuclear, chemical, and biological monitoring devices for U.S.-Russian treaty monitoring regimes.

Worked with U.S. intelligence officials on post-9/11 information-sharing challenges. Manager for SAIC's National Intelligence Operation based in McLean, VA. Grew the business from \$7 million to \$10 million business with more than 70 direct employees. Successfully established a new program for Central Intelligence Agency and Defense Intelligence Agency to build an integrated intelligence collection management system across the U.S. national intelligence community under a 3-year, \$18M contract.

Eurasia Policy Director, National Bureau of Asian Research (NBR), Seattle, 2002-2003

Diversified funding for small 501c3 non-profit. Led proposal and contract negotiations to secure a signature \$600,000 grant from the U.S. national intelligence community for our country's top academic experts to examine post-9/11 socio-economic and political cultures in Central and South Asian countries.

EDUCATION

M.A. Government and National Security Studies, Georgetown University, Washington, D.C. (1983). Part-time graduate student while working full-time at U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency.

B.S. cum laude, School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University, Washington, D.C. (1981). Concentration in Russian Studies and International Business Diplomacy.



Seattle

Press Release

For Immediate Release

Contact Information

Jamie Housen

Phone: 206-798-5002

Email: jamie.housen@seattle.gov



City of Seattle

Office of the Mayor-Elect

Mayor-Elect Harrell Makes Additional City Leadership Announcements, Including Kendee Yamaguchi as Deputy Mayor and Gael Tarleton as Head of Intergovernmental Relations

Harrell announces hires for Deputy Mayor of External Affairs, Chief of Staff, Legal Counsel, and Gun Violence Prevention Liaison, along with changes in department leadership

Seattle – Today, Seattle Mayor-elect Bruce Harrell announced the latest round of hires joining his administration’s cabinet as he prepares to enter office next week and continues to build out his executive department and cabinet.

“Over the past several months, I have heard – in transition meetings and on the street, with city leaders and with everyday neighbors – calls for a representative and responsive City government. My executive team and cabinet are being

built with that priority front of mind,” **said Mayor-elect Harrell**. “I’m excited by the team of leaders we’ve convened to effectively move Seattle forward. In my administration, you’ll see our staff truly engage with the community – visible and accessible to all, empowered to take action, and committed to seeking the solutions that drive positive change.”

Drawing on the input and stated priorities of community leaders, Harrell has hired Kendee Yamaguchi to serve as deputy mayor of external affairs. Yamaguchi, a former City employee who currently serves as executive director for Snohomish County, will be tasked with fostering strong and collaborative relationships between the City of Seattle and community groups, non-profit organizations, and local businesses.

Yamaguchi will help support the City’s COVID response, direct the mayor-elect’s external relations team, and coordinate mayoral priorities around cultural initiatives and events, including in the arts, film, music, sports, job creation and nightlife sectors.

Harrell will appoint Gael Tarleton as interim director of the Office of Intergovernmental Relations. Tarleton will bring her experience as a former state legislator and port commissioner to facilitate collaboration across all levels of government, advocate for federal and state investments, and ensure the City of Seattle is a trusted and engaged partner in regional efforts.

“Gael Tarleton’s proven leadership will be a huge asset for Seattle,” **said Harrell**. “Her unique ability to build and sustain productive relationships will greatly enhance Seattle’s ability to increase its resources and develop favorable legislative policy.”

Also joining the Harrell Administration will be Matt Chan, who will serve as special advisor for public engagement, advising the mayor on the City’s strategic use of digital technology to enhance public engagement, strengthen transparency, and address the digital divide. Chan brings over 45 years of award-winning success in the television industry and has served on the KCTS Board of Directors. His work landed him a spot as one of the few people of color on the Hollywood Reporter’s ‘Top 50 Reality Power Producers’ list.

“I am pleased when people like Matt Chan answer the call of public service to help Seattle reach a new level of meaningful public engagement where all voices are heard,” **said Harrell**. “This is a critical part of our vision.”

Harrell will also appoint Derrick Wheeler-Smith, currently King County’s director of Zero Youth Detention, to serve as interim director of the Seattle Office for Civil Rights (SOCR). Wheeler-Smith will focus on implementing the mayor-elect’s equity and justice priorities, including the Race and Social Justice

Initiative, expanding housing and workforce opportunities, and delivering youth support and mentorship.

Current SOCR Director Mariko Lockhart will rejoin the Seattle Department of Education and Early Learning (DEEL) as a deputy director, where she and Director Dwane Chappelle will continue to drive major equity initiatives and deliver high-quality support to Seattle students. **Harrell added**, “The combination of Ms. Lockhart’s previous leadership in education coupled with Mr. Wheeler-Smith’s leadership in equity work will produce outstanding results in our major equity initiatives with education and mentorship being primary components.”

Harrell also announced the hiring of Jennifer Samuels as chief of staff and Jeremy Racca as legal counsel. Samuels will be responsible for overseeing the workings of the Mayor’s Office – from directing office staff to addressing constituent needs and improving office efficiencies. Racca will provide analysis and support on policy and legal issues facing the City, as well as interface with the City Attorney’s Office and City departments.

Finally, executing on his campaign pledge to elevate the pressing issue of gun violence to the top of his administration, Harrell is announcing the hire of DeVitta Briscoe, who will serve as gun violence prevention liaison. Briscoe is a respected community leader and strategist who will focus on community-driven solutions to address and prevent gun violence, coordinating with local nonprofits, the Regional Peacekeeper Collective, law enforcement, and impacted community members.

“There are few people and few leaders more committed to gun violence prevention than Ms. Briscoe,” **said Harrell**.

Learn more about Mayor-elect Harrell, his team, and his transition structure at seattle.gov/mayor-elect.



Deputy Mayor of External Relations Kendee Yamaguchi

Kendee Yamaguchi brings to the City of Seattle more than two decades of service at all levels of government, having held leadership roles in the White House and Washington State's Department of Commerce, Office of the Attorney General and Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs. In the private sector, she worked both as an attorney and television executive for a leading international cable network. Most recently, as Executive Director for Snohomish County, she led the early COVID-19 economic response strategy where the first case occurred in the United States. She earned a

bachelor's degree from American University and law degree from Seattle University. Yamaguchi has served on the Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission, Washington State Bar Association Professionalism Committee, and local and national boards.



Interim Director of the Office of Intergovernmental Relations Gael Tarleton

Gael Tarleton represented Washington's 36th legislative district in Olympia for eight years before retiring last year, including posts as House Finance Committee Chairwoman and House Majority Floor Leader. Previously, Tarleton was elected twice to the Port of Seattle Commission. Before elected office, Tarleton spent a career in the national security field: strategic adviser at the University of Washington;

Vice President for international business at a Fortune 300 science and technology company; and senior defense intelligence analyst at the U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency. Tarleton holds an M.A. in Government and National Security and B.S. in Foreign Service from Georgetown University, Washington, D.C. She and her husband, Bob, have lived in Ballard for nearly 30 years.



Special Advisor for Public Engagement Matt Chan

Matt Chan has spent 45 years in the television industry, winning awards and driving storytelling success by focusing on audience. Chan has worked in every facet of the industry, from operating television stations to running national television series. His creative work led the Hollywood Reporter to include him as one of the very few people of color on their “Top 50 Reality Power Producers” list. His focus on refining the science and art of storytelling

has come in the form of personal projects, teaching at the University of Washington’s Communication Leadership program, and consulting on network television programs. His passion is to give back to the community, training and educating new generations of citizen journalists and storytellers for the new world of media.



Interim Director of the Seattle Office for Civil Rights Derrick Wheeler-Smith

Derrick Wheeler-Smith currently serves as the Director of Zero Youth Detention for King County Public Health, overseeing the implementation of the Zero Youth Detention Road Map and the development of a regional public safety plan to address gun violence. He played an integral role in mapping initial steps for King County’s declaration of Racism as a Public Health Crisis and was a co-

organizer of the “We Want to Live” march in South Seattle, bringing together thousands of community voices in response to the murder of George Floyd. Wheeler-Smith began work as a youth outreach worker and coach at Franklin High School, has served as a teacher and counselor at Seattle Urban Academy, architect of the Federal Way School District’s first Racial Equity Policy, and National Director of Youth Engagement for World Vision. Wheeler-Smith believes the work of anti-racism is the work of becoming a better human toward your fellow humans, and recognizes marrying his wife Stephenie as his life’s greatest decision and the raising of his children as its most important work.



Chief of Staff Jennifer Samuels

Jennifer Samuels brings a diverse background in government and law office management. Previously serving in Mayor-elect Harrell's office during his tenure at the Seattle City Council from 2008 through 2019, Samuels' primary responsibilities included managing the Council President's committee work, full council briefings, human resources, constituent services, and community priorities. Samuels also served at the Washington State Supreme Court as lead judicial aide to State Supreme Court Justice Robert F. Utter. In Olympia, Samuels served as a liaison between the judicial, legislative and executive branches.



Legal Counsel Jeremy Racca

Jeremy Racca served as a legislative aide for then Councilmember Harrell for seven years, where he staffed civil rights and public safety matters, and is particularly proud to have worked on 'Ban the Box' legislation, police accountability policies, and digital privacy protections. Racca joins the administration from the global law firm Clyde and Co. in New York City. His practice focused on domestic and international litigation and arbitrations involving insurance, energy, trade and commodities, infrastructure, and transportation. Racca also volunteers for organizations that provide support to people with Crohn's Disease.



Gun Violence Prevention Liaison DeVitta Briscoe

Drawing on her own experience as a survivor, as well as a mother who lost her son Donald McCaney to gun violence in 2010 and as a sister who lost her brother Che Taylor to police violence, DeVitta Briscoe has worked toward intervention and frontline support for youth of color to reduce gun violence, ensure police accountability, and empower grieving families. Briscoe launched the Black Women's Coalition to End Violence to address root causes of urban gun violence and center Black women's leadership, and is trained to facilitate Restorative Justice-based healing circles, and the Alive & Free™ violence prevention methodology. Briscoe is a graduate of Evergreen State College.

###

SECTION

B



City of Seattle

Seattle Department of Human Resources

Kimberly Loving, Interim Director

March 16, 2022

TO: Adam Schaefer, City Budget Office

FROM: Annie Nguyen, Seattle Department of Human Resources

SUBJECT: Background check for Gael Tarleton

The Seattle Department of Human Resources has received a copy of Gael Tarleton background check provided by Global Screening Solutions. There were no findings that would impact their 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

An equal employment opportunity employer. Accommodations for people with disabilities provided upon request.

