

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Committee on Civil Rights, Utilities, Economic Development & Arts

From: Asha Venkataraman, Council Central Staff

Date: July 8, 2016

Subject: Seattle Music Commission Terms

The Office of Film and Music transmitted legislation for the Committee on Civil Rights, Economic Development, Utilities & Arts to consider at its July 12 meeting. This legislation proposes to amend the sections of the Seattle Municipal Code forming the Seattle Music Commission to correct staggering of terms that was not implemented as originally scheduled and to establish new terms for each member. It also makes other minor technical changes to the existing code that are not discussed in this memorandum.

Background

The Council adopted [Resolution 31173](#) in 2010 and passed [Ordinance 124422](#) in 2014, creating the Seattle Music Commission (Commission) and establishing the process for appointing members and staggering terms. The City's intent in staggering terms was to ensure that no more than one third (*i.e.*, seven) of the 21 positions would need to be filled in any given year. As codified, positions one through seven had an initial one-year term, positions eight through 14 had an initial two-year term, and positions 15 through 21 had an initial three-year term. After those first appointments, all positions would have three-year terms.

The Mayor and Council confirmed the initial appointments, but the staggering of subsequent terms contemplated in the enabling legislation was never implemented. This resulted in the terms of nine of the initial appointed members (charter members) expiring early this year. Currently, five of the position terms expire in 2018 and five expire in 2017. Eleven position terms expire in 2016, nine of which are currently expired.

Proposed Amendment

The proposed amendments make several changes to remedy the current lack of staggered terms and schedule future appointments so that no more than one third of the Commission needs to be reappointed in any given year.

The current situation (as opposed to the situation contemplated by the Seattle Municipal Code) results in Commission positions that fall into two groups. Group one consists of 12 members with unexpired terms. Group two consists of nine commission members whose terms formally expired in May 2016. For group one the proposed amendment allows the terms to continue until the day before the next term is scheduled to start, per position number, as outlined below. For group two the members will continue to serve informally until August 31, 2016.

Additionally, the amendment creates a short term for group two from September 1, 2016 to the day before the next term is scheduled to start, per position number.

To ensure future staggering, each of the next set of three-year terms is established as follows:

- Positions one through seven: September 1, 2017 – August 31, 2020
- Positions eight through 14: September 1, 2018 – August 31, 2021
- Positions 15-21: September 1, 2016 – August 31, 2019

[SMC 3.74.020.C](#) limits the number of consecutive terms to two (six years). To ensure staggering is properly implemented, the proposed amendment waives that limit for all members who would serve beyond six consecutive years if they served through their proposed end dates. All new terms are subject to the maximum consecutive six year limit.

As long as the City follows the appointment timing framework laid out in this amendment, the current situation will not occur again.

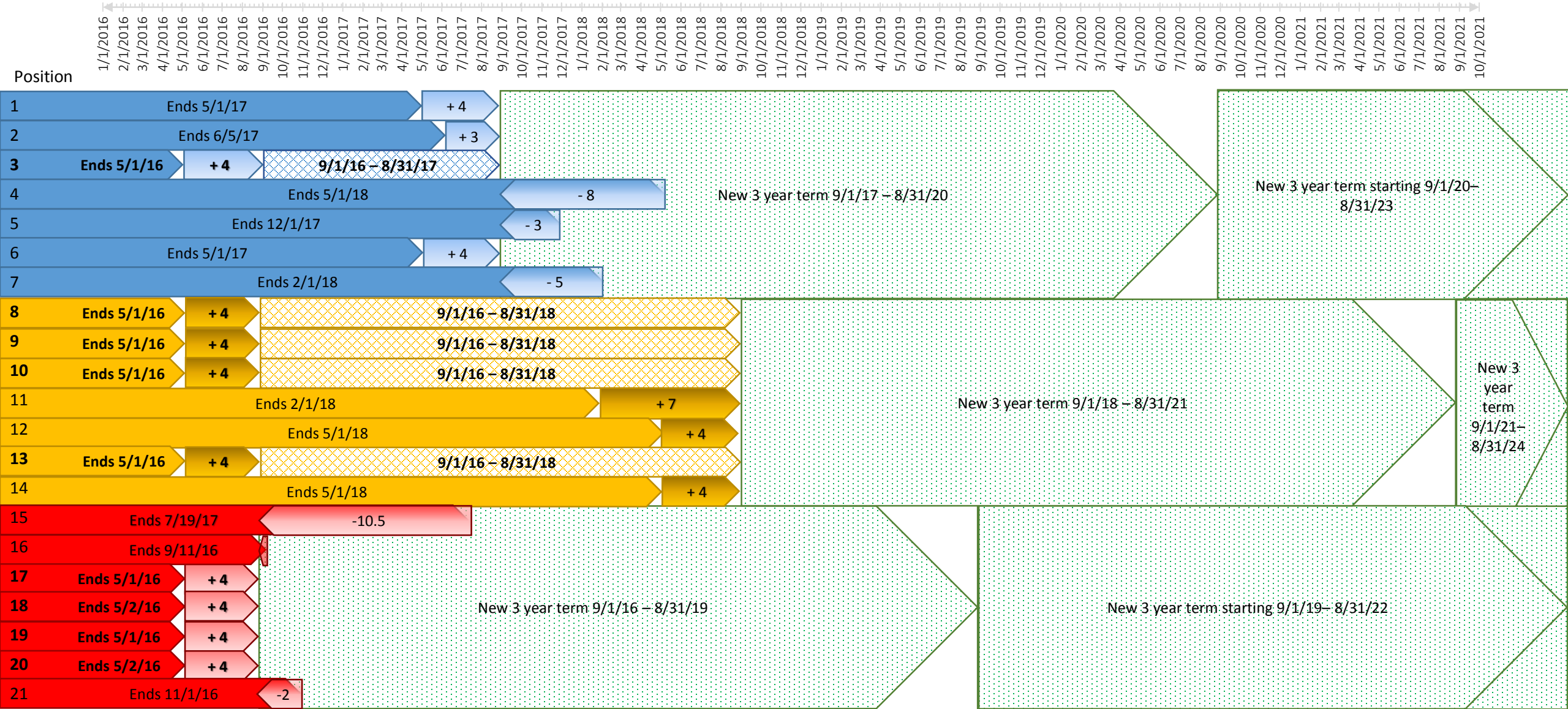
Each of the positions, their original terms, and the terms as proposed in the amendment are outlined in Attachment A to this memorandum.

Attachments:

Attachment A: Seattle Music Commission Current Terms and Proposed Term Changes

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

Attachment A: Seattle Music Commission Current Terms and Proposed Term Changes



Legend

- Current term without amendment
- Change of current term in months
- Short term
- New staggered three year term