



# SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL

## Human Services, Labor, and Economic Development Committee

### Agenda

Friday, May 15, 2026

9:30 AM

Council Chamber, City Hall  
600 4th Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

Alexis Mercedes Rinck, Chair  
Dionne Foster, Vice-Chair  
Joy Hollingsworth, Member  
Debora Juarez, Member  
Rob Saka, Member

Chair Info: 206-684-8808; [AlexisMercedes.Rinck@seattle.gov](mailto:AlexisMercedes.Rinck@seattle.gov)

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**SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL**  
**Human Services, Labor, and Economic  
Development Committee**  
**Agenda**  
**May 15, 2026 - 9:30 AM**

**Meeting Location:**

Council Chamber, City Hall, 600 4th Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104

**Committee Website:**

<https://seattle.gov/council/human-services-labor-and-economic-development>

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*This meeting also constitutes a meeting of the City Council, provided that the meeting shall be conducted as a committee meeting under the Council Rules and Procedures, and Council action shall be limited to committee business.*

Members of the public may register for remote or in-person Public Comment to address the Council. Please register in advance in order to be recognized by the Chair. Details on how to register for Public Comment are listed below:

Remote Public Comment - Register online to speak during the Public Comment period at the meeting at <https://www.seattle.gov/council/committees/public-comment>. Online registration to speak will begin one hour before the meeting start time, and registration will end at the conclusion of the Public Comment period during the meeting.

In-Person Public Comment - Register to speak on the public comment sign-up sheet located inside Council Chambers at least 15 minutes prior to the meeting start time. Registration will end at the conclusion of the Public Comment period during the meeting.

Please submit written comments no later than four business hours prior to the start of the meeting to ensure that they are distributed to Councilmembers prior to the meeting. Comments may be submitted at [Council@seattle.gov](mailto:Council@seattle.gov) or at Seattle City Hall, Attn: Council Public Comment, 600 4th Ave., Floor 2, Seattle, WA 98104. Business hours are considered 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Comments received after that time will be distributed after the meeting to Councilmembers and included as part of the public record.

*Please Note: Times listed are estimated*

**A. Call To Order**

**B. Approval of the Agenda**

**C. Public Comment**

Members of the public may address items on the agenda and matters within the purview of the committee. Please register in advance to be recognized by the Chair.

**D. Items of Business**

1. [Appt 03469](#) **Appointment of Beto Yarce as Director of the Office of Economic Development.**

Attachments: [Appointment Packet](#)  
[Written Questions and Responses](#)

**Briefing, Discussion, and Possible Vote** (30 minutes)

**Presenters:** Beto Yarce, Acting Director, Office of Economic Development; Mark Ellerbrook, Mayor's Office

2. [Res 32202](#) A resolution regarding next steps after the forensic evaluation of the King County Regional Homelessness Authority (KCRHA); requesting that the Seattle Mayor and King County Executive take steps to immediately safeguard public funds, determine if it is feasible for KCRHA to adequately address all of the findings in the forensic evaluation, submit a set of next steps on how the City will approach the dissolution or restructure of KCRHA if determined to be necessary, and submit monthly reports to Council.

Supporting  
Documents:

[Summary and Fiscal Note](#)

[Presentation](#)

[Amendment 1](#)

**Briefing, Discussion, and Possible Vote** (40 minutes)

**Presenter:** Jennifer LaBrecque, Council Central Staff

## E. Adjournment



Legislation Text

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**File #:** Appt 03469, **Version:** 1

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Appointment of Beto Yarce as Director of the Office of Economic Development.

The Appointment Packet is provided as an attachment.

# City of Seattle



**Director**

**Office of  
Economic Development**

**Confirmation Packet  
March 18, 2026**

**Beto Yarce**



March 18, 2026

The Honorable Joy Hollingsworth  
President, Seattle City Council  
Seattle City Hall, 2nd Floor  
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Council President Hollingsworth:

It is my pleasure to transmit to the City Council the following confirmation packet for my nomination of Beto Yarce as Director of the Office of Economic Development (OED)

The materials in this packet are divided into two sections:

1. **Beto Yarce**

This section contains Mr. Yarce's appointment form, oath of office form, resume and the press release announcing his nomination.

2. **Background Check**

This section contains the report on Mr. Yarce's background check.

I am pleased to inform you of my nomination of Beto Yarce as Director of the Office of Economic Development (OED). OED offers a range of support and resources aimed at strengthening local businesses and building a diverse, robust economy that benefits everyone in Seattle. This decision was shaped through thoughtful discussions with members of my transition team to ensure it reflects our shared vision for inclusive growth and opportunity.

Beto Yarce is a business executive, entrepreneur, and nonprofit leader dedicated to advancing economic equity and entrepreneurship. Fluent in English and Spanish, he brings over 15 years of experience driving growth and impact across business, nonprofit, and public sectors. Appointed by President Joe Biden as Regional Administrator for the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Region 10, Beto supported more than 1.3 million small businesses through expanded access to capital, counseling, and federal contracting opportunities. He also served as Executive Director of Ventures in Seattle, where he led the organization's turnaround and expansion. His career reflects a lifelong commitment to empowering communities, strengthening small businesses, and building inclusive economic opportunity.

This nomination reflects my commitment to create economic opportunity that lifts people up and builds a city where everyone feels welcome to start and grow a business. Choices that are good for our economy must also be good for our people—supporting small businesses means creating jobs close to home, and investing in thriving business districts means building spaces where entrepreneurs and residents can succeed together. As I said in my inaugural address, “We will build an economy from the bottom up, not the top down—because when we invest in people and neighborhoods, prosperity follows.” Our work will focus on expanding access to capital, education, and innovative programs so small businesses can thrive and prosperity reaches every corner of Seattle. We will remove barriers that prevent businesses and workers from succeeding, ensuring that economic growth is shared broadly and equitably.

**Quotes from Community Leaders:**

Teresa Mosqueda King County Councilmember District 8

"I am thrilled the City of Seattle will have the skills and expertise of Beto Yarce serving as the Director of Seattle's office of Economic Development. Through his work founding and leading Ventures, he has helped countless individuals get on the ladder to economic security. As the leader of the Office of Economic Development, he will bring this dedication for helping others build an economy that grows healthy communities not just profits. With Beto at OED I am sure the relationship between the City and the County will continue to prosper, and small businesses and entrepreneurs will have a steady hand to guide them at the city in these unstable times due to the federal government. I whole heartedly support him for this role and humbly ask for your support on his confirmation."

Michelle Merriweather, President and CEO, Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle

"I am excited to see Beto Yarce step into this role at such an important time for Seattle's economic future. Beto understands that true economic development must include and uplift the communities that have historically been left out. He understands that economic development is not just about numbers, it is about people, families, and the dreams of entrepreneurs who power our neighborhoods. I am excited for his leadership and confident that he will work to build an economy that is inclusive, resilient, and reflective of Seattle's diverse communities."

Ryan Calkins, Commissioner, Port of Seattle

"Having worked closely with Beto over many years, I'm thrilled that Mayor Wilson has asked him to lead OED. Beto has a proven track record of successful economic development working with small businesses that serve as the heartbeat of our city to larger businesses employing thousands of workers throughout the region. Just as important, his own experience as an entrepreneur will guide the City's efforts to expand business opportunities for people from every community."

Beto Yarce:

"I am grateful and honored to serve as Director of Seattle's Office of Economic Development and to collaborate with Mayor Katie Wilson and her team. I'm thankful for the mayor's trust and shared commitment to building a more inclusive economy for our city. Together, we will strengthen healthy businesses, support thriving business districts, and partner with community organizations to ensure economic opportunity reaches every corner of Seattle. As a small business owner and immigrant, I understand firsthand the challenges many entrepreneurs face. I am eager to work with our team and community partners to build an economy from the bottom up—expanding access to capital, education, and innovative programs so small businesses can grow, create jobs, and help build lasting prosperity for current and future generations."

The Honorable Joy Hollingsworth  
Beto Yarce Confirmation Letter  
March 18, 2026  
Page 3 of 3

I trust that after reviewing Mr. Yarce's application materials, meeting with him, and following the thoughtful review of Councilmember Rinck's Human Services, Labor, and Economic Development Committee, you will find that Mr. Yarce is the ideal leader for OED.

If you have any questions about the attached materials or need additional information, Chief of Staff Kate Brunette Kreuzer would welcome hearing from you. I appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katie B. Wilson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Katie B. Wilson  
Mayor of Seattle

## **SECTION**

### **A**



January 18, 2026

Beto Yarce  
Seattle, WA  
Transmitted via e-mail

Dear Beto,

It gives me great pleasure to appoint you to the position of Director of the Office of Economic Development at an annual salary of \$237,948.

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 "Kaite B. Wilson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kaite B. Wilson  
Mayor of Seattle

cc: Seattle Department of Human Resources file



# City of Seattle Department Head Notice of Appointment

<b>Appointee Name:</b> <i>Beto Yarce</i>	
<b>City Department Name:</b> <i>Office of Economic Development</i>	<b>Position Title:</b> <i>Director</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Appointment</b> OR <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Reappointment</b>	<b>City Council Confirmation required?</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Appointing Authority:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> City Council <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mayor <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <i>Fill in appointing authority</i>	<b>Term of Position: *</b> Council Confirmation <b>to</b> Mayor's Discretion <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Serving remaining term of a vacant position</i>
<b>Background:</b> Beto Yarce is a business executive, entrepreneur, and nonprofit leader dedicated to advancing economic equity and entrepreneurship. Fluent in English and Spanish, he brings over 15 years of experience driving growth and impact across business, nonprofit, and public sectors. Appointed by President Joe Biden as Regional Administrator for the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Region 10, Beto supported more than 1.3 million small businesses through expanded access to capital, counseling, and federal contracting opportunities. He also served as Executive Director of Ventures in Seattle, where he led the organization's turnaround and expansion. His career reflects a lifelong commitment to empowering communities, strengthening small businesses, and building inclusive economic opportunity.	
<b>Authorizing Signature:</b>  <b>Date Signed:</b> March 18, 2026	<b>Appointing Signatory:</b> <i>Katie B. Wilson</i> <i>Mayor of Seattle</i>

\*Term begin and end date is fixed and tied to the position and not the appointment date.



CITY OF SEATTLE ▪ STATE OF WASHINGTON  
OATH OF OFFICE

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State of Washington

County of King

I, Beto Yarce, 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 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.

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Beto Yarce

Subscribed and sworn to before me

this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026.

[Seal]

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Scheereen Dedman, City Clerk

## Beto Yarce

Strategic Business Executive, Entrepreneur, Nonprofit Leader, and Presidential Appointee fluent in English and Spanish.

- Fundraising
- Networking
- Marketing and Outreach
- Policy development
- Strategic planning
- Strategic thinking
- Negotiation and problem solving
- Management and Oversight
- Budget management
- Program design, implementation, and management
- Public Relations
- Diversity and Inclusion leadership

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

#### **CEO-Founder Beto Yarce Consulting September 2022-Present**

- 15years of experience in business, nonprofit, and entrepreneurship. We specialize in organizational change and are dedicated to delivering exceptional results while empowering organizations to thrive.
- Our services include team building, coaching, organizational restructuring, strategic planning, relationship building, donor partnerships, collaborations, public speaking, emotional intelligence, and fostering a growth mindset.
- With a focus on driving growth and creating lasting impact, we provide innovative solutions and strategies to help businesses and nonprofits achieve their goals. Trust in our experience and expertise as we guide you towards success in navigating the ever-changing business landscape.

#### **Regional Administrator Region 10 U.S. Small Business Administration SBA [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov) January 2024- January 2025**

- As the Regional Administrator for the U.S. Small Business Administration's Region 10, appointed by President Joe Biden, I serve as the President's voice in my region, championing the SBA's mission to empower the American dream of business ownership. In this capacity, I oversee all SBA programs, offices, and operations across the Pacific Northwest, encompassing Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington.
- Region 10 is home to over 1.3 million small businesses that employ nearly half of the workforce in this economically and culturally diverse area. It encompasses some of the most remote businesses as well as global leaders in innovation. As the primary resource and advocate for small businesses, supported by the strengths of the federal government, I manage a team of leaders across the region to help them achieve their goals. This includes providing access to capital, counseling, federal contracting, and disaster assistance, while also acting as a liaison with Headquarters and the White House. My efforts are dedicated to fostering growth, encouraging entrepreneurship, and ensuring businesses have the tools they need to thrive.

**Chief Program Officer**  
**Mission Economic Development Agency MEDA <https://medasf.org/>**  
**September 2023- December 2023**

- Responsible for overseeing MEDA's client-serving programs, including the Family Economic Success programs, Mission Promise Neighborhood, and Fondo Adelante, a business development initiative and community development financial institution (CDFI). Beto provides vision, leadership, coaching, and support to the programs team, driving impactful change in the communities they serve.

**Executive Director**  
**Ventures [www.venturesnonprofit.org](http://www.venturesnonprofit.org)**  
**Seattle, WA**  
**May 2014- July 2022**

- Reorganized the organization from a \$400K deficit to a \$3.3M budget and increased the team from 10 to 25 members.
- Balanced budget during transition time, reducing expenses and increased efficiency.
- Leading the organization in promoting business and economic development with key stakeholders.
- Leading team to define and achieve organizational goals and objectives.
- Maintaining external relations with community agencies, business assistance organizations, financing institutions and public agencies.
- Leading team in the implementation of all program components, including training, business technical assistance, lending programs, on-going marketing assistance, Individual Development Account (IDA) activities, and business & personal support services.
- 13 years' experience and responsibility of microfinance programs, including firsthand experience managing 7(a) and microloan programs for SBA. Experience managing the CDFI providing oversight and managing the organization's lending program, including:
  - Determine and manage lending policies, procedures, and rates. Oversee pipeline activities, underwriting, collections, documentation, write-offs, workouts, customer service. Follow Loan Policies and Procedures.
  - Manage the Board Advisory Loan Committee (BALC) – including member relations, planning, meetings, and communication.
  - Founder of the Latino program and created all systems in Spanish to support this community in access to capital with our financial products including, peer loans, microloans, business builder loans and ongoing TA with a 98% repayment rate.
- Fundraising on behalf of the organization through donor relations, grant applications, with highly successful outcomes with foundations philanthropic organizations, identifying and pursuing new sources of revenue, earning revenue and social enterprise experience.
- Increases public awareness with marketing and outreach in different outlets, including Radio, TV, Newspaper, magazines, social media, and blogs
- Increased and diversified funding sources, doubled individual donors, cultivated new major donors, built key relationships with foundations, corporate and government agencies.
- Increased engagement with human resources, building staff morale, offering professional development opportunities, expanded benefits and reduced turnover from 7% to 2%.
- Leads Diversity Equity and Inclusion across the organization including board, staff, stakeholders and clients.

**Seattle City Council District 3 Candidate**  
November 2018- February 2019 [Seattle City Council](#)

**Latino Program Director**  
Washington CASH [www.washingtoncash.org](http://www.washingtoncash.org)  
Seattle, WA  
March 2008 – May 2014

- Established Latino Program starting with a budget of \$15K and expanded to over \$300K and growing.
- Secured funding with local banks and private foundations to create micro lending programs for the Latino community.
- Over 1,000 Latinos completed the business development training program, accounting for 32% of all Washington CASH clients.
- Served as a coach, mentor, and resource for new clients, consulted with business owners encompassing all phases of business.
- Strategic Planning, managing budgets and supervising staff.
- Curriculum development, implementation, utilizing feedback from client evaluations.

**Owner**  
Cintli by Beto Yarce  
Seattle, WA [www.cintli.com](http://www.cintli.com)  
March 2003 – June 2017

- Directed and managed franchises throughout Seattle Washington. Oversees all aspects within Latin and American marketing operations, responsible for strategic planning, lead generation and direct supervision of staff.
- Accomplished successful marketing through press releases, professional networking and by creating an educational focus to allow greater company exposure; ensures top-level customer satisfaction.

## **Education**

**Boston College**  
Center for corporate Citizenship, Carroll School of Management  
Academy for Nonprofit Leadership Certificate  
October 2019

**University of Washington**  
Non-Profit/Public Organizational Management Certificate  
March 2015

**MBA in International Business**  
Instituto Tecnológico de Estudios Superiores de Occidente (ITESO)  
Guadalajara, Jalisco, México (1998–2002)

## **Community involvement**

Honor PAC board member 2023- July 2024  
Cedarmere Foundation board of trustees 2022-present  
Evergreen Business Capital board member 2019-October 2023  
Member of the City of Seattle Small Business Advisory Council (SBAC) 2018-2022  
Member of the City of Seattle Equitable Investment Task Force (ECITF) 2020-2021  
Washington State LGBTQ Commissioner 2020

Member of the City of Seattle Census Task Force 2019-2020  
Representative of the Mexican abroad IME 2012-2014 (Secretary)  
King County Civil Rights Commission board member 2012-2013

**Awards**

Business Leadership Award by University of Washington 2024  
Puget Sound Business Journal Business of Pride Award 2019  
Crosscut Business Courage Award 2018  
City of Seattle Emerging Leader Pride Award 2018  
Puget Sound Business Journal Innovation Award 2018  
SBA Director Excellence Award 2016  
GSBA Nonprofit of the year 2016  
NSHIMBA Community leader of the year 2012  
KOMO TV Latino Business of the Year 2009



## City of Seattle Office of the Mayor

### Press Release

### For Immediate Release

### Contact Information

Sage Wilson



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### Mayor Wilson announces departmental leadership decisions

**SEATTLE** - Mayor Wilson today announced her decisions on the leadership of several city departments.

"I could not be more excited about the talent and expertise of the people who have stepped up to lead city departments, and I know that together, this team will be able to accomplish extraordinary things," said Mayor Wilson. "I look forward to working with Quynh Pham at the Department of Neighborhoods, Amy Nguyen at the Office of Arts and Culture, Beto Yarce at the Office of Economic Development, Lylianna Allala at the Office of Sustainability and the Environment, Rico Quirindongo at the Office of Planning and Community Development, Mina Hashemi at Office of Intergovernmental Affairs and Dr. Amarah Khan at the Office of the Employee Ombud. I am grateful to the outgoing department leaders for all of their contributions to the City over the years, and to the interim leaders for stepping up to aid my transition."

### Department of Neighborhoods

The Department of Neighborhoods is dedicated to help neighbors connect, build strong communities, improve their quality of life, and engage with city government. Jenifer Chao will be leaving the Department of Neighborhoods, and Sam Read will fill her role until Quynh Pham becomes Acting Director.

Quynh is currently the Executive Director of Friends of Little Saigon (FLS), a community development organization dedicated to preserving and enhancing Little Saigon's cultural, economic, and historical vitality. Her 14 years of nonprofit development experience have shaped local policy, advanced opportunities for Southeast Asian artists and cultural practitioners, and increased investments in BIPOC initiatives around equitable development and small business resiliency. She is also the mother of two toddlers, who continue to fuel her drive to ensure they grow up in a culturally rich, accessible, and diverse community.

**Quynh Pham:**

*"I am honored to step into the Department of Neighborhoods, a department that sits at the intersection of community and government. Through my work at Friends of Little Saigon, I have learned that the most effective solutions come from those closest to the challenges. In this new role, I look forward to working alongside and supporting Seattle's diverse neighborhoods."*

**Office of Arts and Culture**

The Office of Arts and Culture manages the city's public arts program, provides grants to support the arts, operates arts education programs and cultural facilities, and strives to make Seattle a place where everyone has the opportunity to engage in diverse arts and cultural experiences. Gülgün Kayim will be leaving the Office of Arts and Culture, and Kelly Davidson will fill her role until Amy Nguyen becomes Acting Director.

Amy Nguyen brings over a decade of public sector leadership to the position, including service as Deputy Director at the Office of Planning & Community Development and as Interim Deputy Director and Public Art Director at the Office of Arts & Culture. Raised in White Center and shaped by experiences in New York and New Orleans, Nguyen is committed to activating and sustaining

Seattle through arts and culture, so creativity is something everyone can access, in every neighborhood.

**Amy Nguyen:**

*“Creativity is how a city honors its past, heals its present, and imagines its future. I’m honored to serve as the Acting Director for the Office of Arts & Culture, and excited to support the artists and communities shaping Seattle every day. My north star is a future where more people have resources, space, and freedom to create and where meaningful cultural experiences are within reach and close to home.”*

**Gülgün Kayim:**

*“I’m honored to have served Seattle during a time of big changes for the Office of Arts & Culture and the city as we navigate post-pandemic recovery. Since I joined in 2023, I’m proud to have led stabilization of the department after major staffing and scope reductions, complete a comprehensive Strategic Plan, and rebuild capacity. Together, we strengthened community oversight by expanding the Seattle Arts Commission, brought back the King Street Station Advisors, improved operations, launched new programs to support organizational transformation in the cultural sector, and restructured the department to better align with the City’s community and civic priorities.*

*I’m especially proud of the relationships built with communities, cultural organizations, and civic partners across Seattle, as well as the department’s role in activating Downtown and installing major public art along the Seattle Waterfront. This work has set the stage for Seattle’s first-ever citywide Cultural Plan and prepared us to lead major cultural programming during the 2026 FIFA World Cup.”*

**Office of Economic Development**

The Office of Economic Development offers a range of support and resources aimed at supporting local businesses, support thriving neighborhoods, and help build a diverse, robust economy benefits everyone in Seattle. Alicia Teel will return to her position as Deputy Director when Beto Yarce becomes the Acting Director.

Beto is a business executive, entrepreneur, and nonprofit leader dedicated to advancing economic equity and entrepreneurship. Fluent in English and Spanish, he brings over 15 years of experience driving growth and impact across business, nonprofit, and public sectors. Appointed by President Joe Biden as Regional Administrator for the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Region 10, Beto was responsible for supporting more than 1.3 million small businesses through expanded access to capital, counseling, and federal contracting opportunities. He is the CEO and Founder of Beto Yarce Consulting, where he helps organizations strengthen leadership, strategy, and performance, and previously served as Executive Director of Ventures in Seattle, where he led the organization’s turnaround and expansion. His career reflects a lifelong commitment to empowering communities, strengthening small businesses, and building inclusive economic opportunity.

**Beto Yarce:**

*“I am grateful and honored to serve as Director of Seattle’s Office of Economic Development and to collaborate with Mayor Katie Wilson and her team. I’m thankful for the mayor’s trust and shared commitment to building a more inclusive economy for our city. Together, we will strengthen healthy businesses, support thriving neighborhoods, and partner with community organizations to ensure economic opportunity reaches every corner of Seattle. As a small business owner and immigrant, I understand firsthand the challenges many entrepreneurs face. I am eager to work with our team and community partners to build an economy from the bottom up—expanding access to capital, education, and innovative programs so small businesses can grow, create jobs, and help build lasting prosperity for current and future generations.”*

**Office of Sustainability and the Environment**

The Office of Sustainability and the Environment works to ensure a clean and healthy environment for everyone who lives and works in Seattle. Michelle Caulfield will return to her position as Deputy Director when Lylianna Allala becomes the Acting Director.

Lylianna currently serves as the Interim Deputy Director, and previously served as the City of Seattle's first Climate Justice Director. As the Climate Justice Director, Lylianna oversaw citywide implementation of Seattle's Equity & Environment Initiative and Seattle's Green New Deal. Prior to joining the City, Lylianna led climate & environmental policy & outreach for Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal.

**Lylianna Allala:**

*"I am grateful for the opportunity to lead the Office of Sustainability & Environment under Mayor Wilson's leadership. I share Mayor Wilson's commitment to building strong and inclusive partnerships and uplifting community centered solutions to ensure that Seattle's climate action yields tangible benefits for all our communities. I am immensely proud to lead this department of passionate people who have dedicated themselves to implementing innovative policies and programs that meet community needs and improve quality of life through clean air and water, healthy forests and trees, access to fresh foods, and inclusive pathways to careers that help Seattle reduce emissions and become more climate resilient. Caring for the environment must begin with caring for one another."*

**Office of Planning and Community Development**

The Office of Planning and Community Development partners with neighborhoods and businesses, and works across City departments to assess community needs, prioritize resources, and develop of a city that is inclusive, affordable, vibrant, interconnected and innovative. Mayor Wilson is retaining **Rico Quirindongo** as director of the Office of Planning and Community.

Rico has dedicated over 30 years to revitalizing and reimagining neighborhoods. Through his passion for architecture, civic engagement, and sustainable design, Rico has been at the forefront of projects that breathe new life into Seattle's urban fabric, ensuring that growth aligns with community values and environmental stewardship. As a founding member of the Northwest Chapter of the National Organization of Minority Architects, Rico has helped foster diversity and inclusion within the field. His leadership

extends across several prominent roles, from chairing the Pike Place Market Preservation and Development Authority Council to serving as President of AIA Seattle. In 2020, he delivered his first TED Talk and was recognized nationally as a “Citizen Architect” by the American Institute of Architects (AIA). Last year, he was named one of Seattle’s Most Influential by Seattle Magazine. Rico believes in the power of design in shaping resilient, inclusive communities.

**Rico Quirindongo:**

*“It’s an honor to remain at the helm of OPCD under Mayor Wilson’s leadership, and I’m grateful for the trust and partnership that make our work possible. With the passage of the Comprehensive Plan in December, we have an incredible opportunity to shape Seattle’s future. I’m excited to continue working with homeowners, renters, developers, nonprofits, and the design community to envision a city where everyone can live, work, and play. Our commitment is clear: embrace diversity, repair the harms of our redlining past, and create pathways to generational wealth-building in Black and Brown communities. We will foster a city where artists, entrepreneurs, small-business owners, and working families can afford to thrive, be seen, and be celebrated.”*

**Additional leadership decisions**

Mina Hashemi will remain as head of the **Office of Intergovernmental Relations**, and Dr. Amarah Khan will remain as head of the **Office of the Employee Ombud**.

Other departments will see interim leadership changes until a permanent director is selected. At the **Office of Housing**, Maiko Winkler-Chin will be leaving as director, and Andréa Akita will serve as Interim Director. At the **Parks Department**, AP Diaz will be leaving as director, and Michele Finnegan will serve as Interim Director.

**Dr. Amarah Khan:**

*“It is an absolute privilege to continue to serve the City of Seattle Employees as the Director of the Ombuds Office. Our office is a safe place for employees to report issues and concerns. For nearly seven years, we have diligently upheld the highest standards of confidentiality while ensuring conflict resolution*

*services are provided in a timely manner. I am grateful for Mayor Wilson's support and faith in this very important work."*

**Andréa Akita:**

*"I'm honored to serve in this interim role, leading the Seattle Office of Housing. Our team is dedicated to stewarding the City's affordable housing investments, policies, and programs to prevent displacement, create new opportunities, and preserve existing affordable homes. This work is rooted in collaboration, working jointly with others to achieve shared goals, because we know that only by partnering with communities, stakeholders, and advocates can we realize Mayor Wilson's vision of a Seattle that is affordable for everyone."*

**Maiko Winkler-Chin:**

*"It has been an honor to serve these last four years as Director of the Seattle Office of Housing. This team is one of the smartest in the City, navigating the complex challenges in creating and preserving affordable housing.*

*It's never just about housing. It's about creating lasting community assets, repairing past harms, and ensuring all neighborhoods offer diverse housing options. Our investments bring homes and vital neighborhood elements like small businesses, childcare, libraries, and cultural anchors.*

*Together, we achieved incredible milestones: passing the nation's largest Housing Levy at nearly \$1 billion, welcoming over 800 low-income families into affordable rental homes, helping 300 families buy their first homes, and advancing projects like Fort Lawton, Mount Baker Station, and Lake City Community Center. We adapted to meet the moment because Seattle has changed, and so must we.*

*I leave the Office in the hands of my good friend and mission partner, Interim Director Andréa Akita, who will continue the hard work of making sure everyone in Seattle has a healthy and affordable home. I look forward to seeing the policies, programs, and investments OH creates continue to shape Seattle."*

**Michele Finnegan:**

*"I'm honored to serve as Acting Superintendent of Seattle Parks and Recreation, an organization powered by a passionate workforce committed to*

*strengthening communities and improving lives across Seattle through our parks, programs, and services. We share a vision for vibrant communities, a healthy environment, and affordable, accessible opportunities for all. I look forward to partnering with Mayor Wilson, City departments, and community members to support solutions to shared challenges facing our city.*

**AP Diaz:**

*"I'm grateful for the opportunity to have led the Seattle Parks and Recreation Department. With a workforce of nearly 2000 employees, they are the ones who make Seattle's Parks the 8th best park system in America. Even in the rainy, cold, and darkest of days they show up and out for community - providing exceptional park experiences, with a love and commitment to enriching the lives of children, teens, adults and our aging population. That's why our motto is Seattle Shines! During the past three years, we launched Swim Seattle to eradicate disproportionate drownings among kids of colors; worked to combat nature deficit syndrome by launching the Red Barn Ranch Initiative; created Seattle Mentors — a wage-based youth employment and mentorship program and are poised to now tackle the epidemic of loneliness plaguing our largest cities. We also secured the United Nations "role model" city status for our work on urban forest regeneration — the only U.S. City to receive this worldwide recognition and a commitment to advance our City's climate initiatives.*

*These accomplishments reflect only part of what we together helped deliver and performed for our City's parklands and waterscapes. Whether responding to natural disasters, supporting staff after traumatic events, or reimagining the role of parks in civic life — I endeavored to show up with strength, empathy, a friendly outlook, authenticity and a can-do spirit. I was proud to be the only Latino cabinet member and I am thankful to have been trusted by so many of our SPR workforce, respected in the community, and counted on by various City leaders and stakeholders such as the Seattle Parks Foundation, The Associated Recreation Council, The Zoo, The Aquarium and scores of neighbors, community groups and park advocates."*

###



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## **SECTION**

### **B**



# City of Seattle

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## Seattle Human Resources

Kimberly Loving, Director

January 20, 2026

TO: Lindsey King – Talent Acquisition and Compensation Advisor - SHR

FROM: Annie Nguyen – Citywide Employment Compliance Advisor - SHR

SUBJECT: Background check for Sanchez Yarce, Carlos Alberto

The Seattle Human Resources has received a copy of **Carlos Alberto Sanchez Yarce's** background check provided by Global Screening Solutions. There were no findings that would impact their employment eligibility.

Cc: Personnel File

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Seattle Department of Human Resources

Seattle Municipal Tower, 700 5<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.seattle.gov/jobs)

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## **Appointment Questions**

### **Interim Director Beto Yarce, Office of Economic Development**

#### **1. What drew you to this important role with the City of Seattle?**

I was drawn to this role because it allows me to bring together my lived experience, my professional background, and my commitment to public service in support of Seattle's economic future. As an immigrant, entrepreneur, and nonprofit leader, I've experienced firsthand the barriers that can stand in the way of opportunity, and that life experience equips me to do this work with empathy, urgency, and perspective.

OED is not new to me. As a small business owner, entrepreneur, and founder of Ventures, I have worked with the department for many years. This experience as a participant of the programs and a partner to the department gives me a unique understanding of how the department operates, how it has grown, and what opportunities are ahead for us.

What excites me most is the chance to deliver real results by uniting multiple partners around a shared goal. I've built a career bringing people together across sectors, aligning different perspectives, and turning collaboration into action. In this role, I want to continue doing that for Seattle's businesses and neighborhoods by strengthening partnerships, expanding access, and helping create a more inclusive economy for all.

#### **2. What is your long-term vision of strengthening Seattle's small**

**business ecosystem?** My long-term vision for strengthening Seattle's small business ecosystem is a city where opportunity is broad, inclusive, and sustainable. I envision a diverse, affordable, and equitable economy with a unified ecosystem that brings together innovation, thriving small businesses, vibrant neighborhoods, public safety, and basic needs support for our most vulnerable residents. To get there, we need to remove barriers that hold businesses back, invest in technical assistance, provide training, and offer ongoing support that helps businesses not just start, but stay and grow. We also need to be bold in creating programs that allow innovation, especially for entrepreneurs who are ready to build the next generation of businesses and neighborhood anchors. Small businesses are the backbone of Seattle's communities, and my goal is to create the conditions for

them to thrive in every part of the city. That means aligning public, private, and community partners around a shared strategy that expands opportunity, strengthens neighborhoods, and ensures economic growth and equity move forward together.

**3. What do you see as the biggest economic challenges facing Seattle? What are some of the unique opportunities Seattle has for economic growth?**

Seattle's biggest economic challenges are rapid growth, affordability, and public safety, along with the risk of depending too heavily on one industry, especially tech. Like many fast-growing cities, Seattle has to make sure that growth works for everyone and that people, small businesses, and neighborhoods are not priced out or left behind. We also need to keep strengthening the conditions that make the city safe, welcoming, and viable for business investment. At the same time, Seattle has unique opportunities for economic growth. Compared with regions like Los Angeles, San Francisco, and New York City, Seattle is still relatively competitive on affordability, which gives us an advantage in attracting talent, entrepreneurs, and investment. We also have a strong foundation in key industries like clean energy, maritime, manufacturing, and AI, and those sectors create real opportunities to diversify the economy and support long-term resilience. My focus is on building on those strengths while making sure Seattle remains a place where innovation, thriving neighborhoods, and opportunity can grow together.

**4. What do you see as the biggest challenges facing the Office of Economic Development over the next four years and what is your approach to addressing those? What are some metrics you would use to evaluate OED's performance?**

One of the biggest challenges facing OED is our capacity to maintain focus on the City's role in navigating the economic challenges expressed here. To address this, we have to be proactive about how we build the larger systems and structures that can strengthen our economy. At the same time, we also have to stay responsive to emerging needs from businesses.

Part of what has enabled OED to make such an impact over the past several years has been our growth, so that we can have that necessary balance between helping businesses with acute needs while building our future economy. The City's budget challenges are a risk for the resources we have available to carry out that work. Over the next four years, I'm dedicated to working to grow our economy to hopefully ease those challenges.

Some of the metrics I would use include:

- Stability, retention, and growth of businesses, including BIPOC-owned, minority-owned, women-owned, and LGBTQ+-owned businesses
- Ease of permitting and at faster rates for businesses - making the regulatory journey for businesses predictable, affordable, and timely
- Increased business activity and vibrancy in our neighborhood business districts, including Downtown
- The performance outcomes of Business Improvement Areas and formation of BIAs
- Growth of our key industry sectors and the businesses that shape them – including the number of businesses, a productive industry environment, and job growth
- Attraction of businesses of all sizes to the City, restoring the reputation that Seattle is “open for business”
- Increased access and leverage of affordable capital for underrepresented small businesses to grow and thrive
- Growing City support for scaling small and mid-sized businesses

## **5. What role should the Office of Economic Development play in workforce development?**

We have both an internal and an external role in workforce development. First, I'm proud of OED's work to convene over eleven departments to align investments, priorities, and opportunities. When this work began in 2025, the city's workforce investments and programs weren't coordinating or connecting the people graduating from programs and trainings to the next step in their skills or career path within and around the City and region. We've gone from having \$15 million invested across the City, across more than 65 programs, to getting unified around three main pillars:

1. The City as a model employer
2. Data and impact
3. Strategic partnerships with entities like higher education, labor and industry, public workforce partners, and other municipal workforce systems.

Three of the most immediate opportunities that the City has are with youth, utilities, and clean energy talent development within the City and regional economy, and we've continued to convene a cross-department workforce group within the City to advance that work. This work is already seeing success. On Monday, the Mayor and I visited the Joint Training Facility used by SPU and SCL. Seattle is one of three cities selected for the 2026 NLC/AIR GROW Learning Lab, an eight-month effort to strengthen municipal hiring, retention, and workforce data systems. The Learning Lab work connects directly to SPU and SCL's workforce needs, particularly around utilities and clean energy roles essential for service reliability, climate goals, and electrification. OED is also an important voice for the City externally on workforce development. Our department has insight and understanding of opportunities for job growth, industry and employer needs, as well as the levers the City has. We serve on the Mayor's behalf on the Workforce Development Council of Seattle-King County, the only organization authorized to receive federal workforce development funding for Seattle, to provide that perspective to the broader regional structure. .

We're seeing many of our regional public partners prioritize workforce strategies that closely align with evolving industry needs. The City needs to be on the frontlines of those conversations. We have a unique opportunity to align, blend, and strengthen funding opportunities, public investments, and community partnerships, while advancing local talent development.

## 6. **How will you ensure that Council priorities are delivered?**

I will ensure Council priorities are delivered by staying focused on collaboration, trust, and clear accountability. My working style is to bring people together across the Mayor's Office, Council, stakeholders, and community partners so we can align around shared goals and move from discussion to action.

I believe delivery starts with strong relationships and direct engagement. That means keeping communication open, building trust, and making sure partners know they are heard and included. It also means being disciplined about follow-through, clarifying responsibilities, and maintaining regular coordination so priorities do not stall between departments or institutions.

At the end of the day, my approach is to unify the partners around the work, remove barriers, and keep everyone moving in the same direction so Council priorities are not only supported, but actually delivered.

## **7. What does meaningful engagement with small businesses and labor partners look like to you?**

Meaningful engagement with small businesses and labor partners starts with recognizing that their interests are interconnected. What is good for business is good for workers, and what is good for workers strengthens businesses. That symbiotic relationship means we need sustainable, resilient, and profitable businesses that can provide good-paying jobs, benefits, and real opportunity. For me, meaningful engagement means listening early, being honest about challenges, and bringing both small businesses and labor partners into the conversation before decisions are finalized. It means building trust through consistent communication, shared problem-solving, and a commitment to practical outcomes that support competitiveness, workforce stability, and long-term growth.

## **8. How would you balance supporting downtown recovery while also investing in neighborhood business districts?**

To advance an inclusive and prosperous economy, we need to take an “all-of the above” approach. OED has actively worked for many years across Seattle to build a racially equitable and vibrant city with engaged neighborhood business districts that are centers of local commerce, community, and culture. I’ve had the opportunity to work with OED as a partner, in my former role, and have seen the impact of this work. We continue to invest deeply in this work, from business retention support, to working to reduce vacancies, to forming sustainable BIAs that empower communities to reinvest in their needs, and thriving neighborhood business districts are a core pillar of the Future of Seattle Economy framework that guides OED’s work. We truly appreciate the partners we have in the eleven BIAs and many neighborhood partners around the City to do this work.

At the same time, we need to have a healthy and thriving Downtown – which is itself a collection of neighborhood business districts including Belltown, Pioneer Square, and the Chinatown-International District. Downtown’s residential population is

growing, and over the next two decades, it is projected to become the City's largest housing center. It's also Seattle's largest job center, with more than 210,000 workers commuting in even after the pandemic, and is a significant center for small businesses, with 2/3 of the nearly 4,000 businesses located downtown having fewer than 10 employees. Downtown is everyone's neighborhood – people come from around the City to go to events, arts, culture, or nightlife; to visit restaurants and go shopping, and to go to public spaces including our beautiful waterfront. For all of these reasons, Downtown contributes significantly to Seattle's tax base – enabling us to make the investments we do in our neighborhood business districts around the City. With high vacancies Downtown, OED is continuing to encourage business retention and actively working to recruit businesses to locate here. We also see so much potential for Downtown to have more neighborhood amenities and to encourage more positive activity at night, attracting people of all ages as well as families.

I don't see Downtown recovery and strong neighborhood business districts as mutually exclusive – and my approach to economic development approach will seek to make sure we're advancing both.

## **9. What strategies would you use to address rising costs for starting and sustaining small businesses?**

Three of the biggest cost challenges that small businesses face are commercial affordability, access to capital, and the time and expertise required to navigate City processes.

For commercial affordability, I see an opportunity to advance strategies across the real estate continuum – from just getting into your first space, to upgrading your current space, to bringing more predictability to long-term ownership. The teams in OED have done an incredible job evolving programs at each of these points, and I'm excited to keep bringing energy to that work. There is also a lot of potential for policies that make things more predictable and transparent for commercial tenants so they can get a clearer picture of the costs of a particular location.

I'm very passionate about access to capital, which is critical for a business to grow. I want to continue strengthening the system of community lenders we have, and

explore ways that the City can partner with the private sector and philanthropy to broaden what is available. The high interest rates we've seen for the past few years are very hard for small businesses, and so my team is thinking about how that influences our strategies and approach.

Last but not least, we need to cut red tape for small businesses. Time is money for a small business, and so I'm very motivated to make it faster, simpler, and more affordable to get permits from the City. I'm looking forward to working with other departments to make these processes easier to work through.

## **10. How do you see the intersection between transportation policy and economic development? I need support**

Reliable transportation networks for people and goods are deeply connected to economic development.

Our maritime, manufacturing, transportation, and warehouse sector is a key part of our economy, supporting over 46,000 jobs. Those jobs rely on freight mobility that works – so that goods can go from truck, train, ship, or airplane to where they need to go. As we look to retain and grow jobs in our industrial sector, one of the areas where Seattle has a lot of potential, we need to make sure that our transportation policies keep goods moving efficiently through our city and the region.

We are also so fortunate to have a strong transit system here that is in the midst of an incredible regional expansion. With the new Cross-Lake Connection, on top of recently expanded light rail service to Lynnwood and Federal Way, Seattle is at the epicenter of our regional transit network, and that's great news as it is even easier for people to take transit here, whether for work or as local visitors.

As exciting as it is to have more transit – bus and light rail – on the way, the piece that's challenging is construction mitigation. This is an area where I hope to make some progress, because I know how tough the immediate impacts are for our city's small businesses. These businesses, many of which are part of a neighborhood's fabric, go through months or sometimes years of construction, and we need a more holistic and proactive approach as a City for how we support them through such a disruptive time.

## **11. How do you plan to partner with the Port of Seattle and their ‘Teal New Deal’ efforts?**

The Port of Seattle is essential to Seattle’s economic future. OED and the Port work closely on several economic issues, understanding that the health of the Port is reflected in the health of our economy, and vice versa.

The Port is a critical partner to OED in economic development and workforce development. We have both commissioned studies on economic development and an assessment of our business climate, and I am in conversations with the Port to align some of our efforts on overlapping short-, mid-, and long-term goals, some of which include the ‘Teal New Deal’ efforts. We share the perspective that Seattle’s strengths position us very well to be a leader in attracting clean energy and advanced manufacturing to our industrial lands. This isn’t just good for the green and blue economy. It’s also an exciting opportunity to grow family-wage, accessible jobs here in the City.

In conversations with our colleagues at the Port, we understand the “Teal New Deal” is still under development. One project that has moved forward is support the Maritime Innovation Center. The Port owns the newly restored Maritime Innovation Center at Fishermen’s Terminal, representing an investment of \$37 million. The 2026 City of Seattle budget includes a \$400,000 investment in Maritime Blue, still under negotiation by OED, to support the opening of the center.



Legislation Text

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**File #:** Res 32202, **Version:** 1

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## The City of Seattle

### Resolution

**A resolution** regarding next steps after the forensic evaluation of the King County Regional

Homelessness Authority (KCRHA); requesting that the Seattle Mayor and King County Executive take steps to immediately safeguard public funds, determine if it is feasible for KCRHA to adequately address all of the findings in the forensic evaluation, submit a set of next steps on how the City will approach the dissolution or restructure of KCRHA if determined to be necessary, and submit monthly reports to Council.

#### Recitals:

In December 2019, as authorized by Ordinance 126021, The City of Seattle (Seattle) and King County entered into the Interlocal Agreement for the Establishment of the King County Regional Homelessness Authority (KCRHA) in order to provide a coordinated, regional approach that would improve the delivery of homeless services and enhance outcomes for those receiving such services.

In November 2024, as authorized by Ordinance 127105, Seattle and King County entered the Amended and Restated Interlocal Agreement (Amended Interlocal Agreement) to streamline the governance structure at KCRHA to improve transparency, coordination, and oversight.

Past audits performed by the Office of the Washington State Auditor have identified the following issues related to internal controls and negative cash balances at KCRHA: 1) the 2023 Single

Federal Audit identified significant deficiencies in the design or operation of internal control over major federal programs; 2) the 2023 Accountability Audit Report found that KCRHA's funding model resulted in a negative cash balance at year-end placing its service levels and future obligations at risk; and 3) the 2022 Financial Audit found that KCRHA did not have effective internal controls in place to ensure accurate and reliable financial reporting and that internal controls were inadequate for ensuring compliance with federal requirements for subrecipient monitoring.

In 2025, Clark Nuber P.S. was engaged by Seattle in coordination with King County to conduct a forensic evaluation of KCRHA covering the period from mid-2021 through July 31, 2025. The evaluation focused on financial condition, governance, and risk management practices, with particular attention to factors contributing to negative cash balances and opportunities to strengthen processes and oversight.

On April 22, 2026 a report on the results of the forensic evaluation were sent to KCRHA and made publicly available. The forensic evaluation described a number of concerning observations regarding KCRHA's financial and internal control practices including but not limited to: 1) a receivables balance of \$8 million could not be reconciled based on available records, indicating a potential need to write it off; 2) an administrative operating deficit of approximately \$4.26 million; 3) recurring negative cash balances beginning in December 2023, reaching a negative cash position of approximately \$44.7 million as of July 31, 2025. The negative cash balance is driven largely by inefficiencies in invoicing and review processes and has led to an approximately \$1.26 million in interest charges that are not expected to be recovered (part of the \$4.26 million operating deficit); 4) practices that led to inconsistent and unreliable financial reporting, making it difficult to understand the financial position of KCRHA

at a given point in time, including revenues and expenses as compared to approved budgets and its cash position; 5) as of July 31, 2025, the internal 2024 year-end financial statements showed a difference of \$1.3 million dollars when compared to the audited financial statements. Typically, internal year-end statements and audited financial statements should match; 6) KCRHA had inadequate financial controls, including a lack of an internal control framework that puts it out of compliance with federal funding requirements; 7) the evaluation did not identify specific evidence of large-scale fraud in the samples reviewed. However, due to limitations in internal controls, the risk of fraud, waste, and abuse remains, as it would for any organization in a similar situation; 8) KCRHA did not always clearly track funds, and as a result it could not easily demonstrate that cash, including cash advances, was consistently used for its intended purpose. This increased the risk of potential noncompliance with funder and contract requirements; and 9) KCRHA did not follow some basic accounting and financial management principles, such as a hard monthly close or defined and consistently utilized cost centers, which contributed to the issues described above.

The forensic evaluation concluded that narrow, standalone recommendations are not practical because the issues at KCRHA are interrelated and reflect systemic conditions rather than a single root cause, event, or management team. Instead, addressing the issues at KCRHA would require a coordinated and multi-layered approach, which may represent a significant time and cost investment.

The depth, breadth, and severity of the issues identified in the forensic evaluation have deeply eroded public trust in KCRHA to be a responsible steward of public funds. However, there are important considerations as next steps are considered.

KCRHA administers hundreds of homeless service contracts on behalf of public

fundes, mainly the City and County, for programs such as homeless shelters, safe parking programs, day centers and rapid rehousing. Those programs serve some of the most vulnerable people in the community. Any potential transition of contracts back to public fundes would need to be done carefully in order to ensure that services to these vulnerable people are not disrupted in any way.

KCRHA currently serves as the Continuum of Care (CoC) Lead Entity and will be coordinating the application response to the 2026 CoC Notice of Funding Availability, anticipated to be published this summer. King County currently receives \$67 million in CoC funding, which is potentially at risk due to federal funding changes. A strong and functional CoC Lead Entity is needed to ensure the region's best chance at a competitive application.

Any successful approach to effectively addressing homelessness must have a regional component, and as Council and the Executive consider next steps the importance of regionalism must be kept in mind.

Given these considerations, it is essential that the City take a measured, deliberative approach to determining the next steps following this forensic evaluation. Therefore,

**Be it resolved by The City of Seattle, the Mayor concurring:**

Section 1. The Seattle Mayor (Mayor), King County Executive, and King County Regional Homelessness Authority (KCRHA) should take steps to immediately safeguard public funds. The City Council recognizes that some steps have already been taken, including:

A. The Mayor and King County Executive sent KCRHA a cover letter on April 22, 2026 accompanying the forensic evaluation report. The cover letter stated that by May 8, 2026 KCRHA must provide a written response to the Seattle Human Services Department (HSD) and the King County Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS) that describes how KCRHA will address the following high-risk findings in the evaluation: 1) a strategy with a detailed timeline outlining how the KCRHA is going to address issues related to unreconcilable and unrecoverable cash; 2) ensure appropriate approvals for employee reimbursements; 3) ensure sufficient approvals and documentation on gift cards; 4)

ensure segregation of duties for accounting and expenditure permissions; and 5) ensure strong authorization, receipt, and review controls for purchase cards.

B. In the same April 22, 2026 cover letter the Mayor and King County Executive committed that, during the next 30 days, the City and County will coordinate to ensure sufficient accounting and oversight controls are in place within KCRHA. This may include actions that: 1) improve the quality and clarity of accounting records; 2) address inconsistencies in financial and budget management and financial reporting; and 3) address administrative budget overspend.

C. At the April 24, 2024 KCRHA Governing Board meeting, the Governing Board voted to create a Finance Committee and established new requirements that the Finance Committee must approve any new agreements that increase costs or liabilities where existing budget authority has not been granted, approve any recruitment and hiring of vacant or new positions, and approve any discretionary spending.

Section 2. The Mayor and King County Executive should determine if it is feasible for KCRHA to adequately address all of the findings in the forensic audit, and if so how long it would take and what the cost would be. The April 22, 2026 cover letter to KCRHA requires that KCRHA must provide a written corrective action plan addressing each of the findings, including implementation timelines, by May 23, 2026. The Mayor or designee should evaluate the viability of the proposed approach submitted by KCRHA, and should also estimate cost of its implementation. The Mayor or designee should notify the Chair of the Human Services, Labor, and Economic Development Committee on whether or not they consider the proposed approach to be viable no later than June 1, 2026, including considerations around cost and length of time needed to address all findings. If the Mayor or designee finds that there is a viable plan for addressing all findings, the implementation plan, timeframe, and cost of implementing the plan should also be shared with the Chair of the Human Services, Labor, and Economic Development Committee no later than June 1, 2026.

Section 3. If the Mayor or designee determines that there is no viable approach to addressing the forensic evaluation findings, then the Mayor or designee should submit a set of next steps that outline how the City will approach the dissolution or restructure of KCRHA in a measured and deliberative manner that supports a collective path forward. That path may include development of guiding principles, such as minimal disruption to services and maintenance of a regional approach to addressing homelessness, and convening a collaborative cross-jurisdictional table focused on the development of an effective service delivery system. The plan should be provided to the Chair of the Human Services, Labor, and Economic Development Committee no later than August 1, 2026. It should include the following components:

A. Guiding principles for shared adoption, outlining Seattle's shared values and key considerations in the path forward.

B. A commitment to collaborative and meaningful engagement with key stakeholders, including homeless service providers and regional partners, around system planning and improving outcomes.

C. Options for how the City should strategically utilize this opportunity to evaluate and adapt City investments in homeless services, which have not undergone significant changes since 2017, ensure greater system to system connections to address upstream issues that lead to homelessness, and ensure alignment with other City approaches to homelessness.

D. An update on potential approaches to the Continuum of Care (CoC) responsibilities that: assume dissolution of KCRHA would occur after 2026, so as not to create risk to Fiscal Year 2025 CoC contracts that are subject to renewal in 2026; take into account the Fiscal Year 2026 Notice of Funding Opportunity for CoC funding, which is expected to be published by the Department of Housing and Urban Development in the summer of 2026; and consider how CoC requirements such as conducting the Point-in-Time Count, managing Coordinated Entry and administering the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) will be maintained.

E. Ensuring HSD has sufficient capacity and staffing to directly administer homeless service contracts again, including strong accounting and financial systems, internal controls, and oversight.

F. Options for how Seattle and King County will continue to maintain a regional approach to addressing homelessness, including coordination of cross-jurisdictional severe weather sheltering efforts, and considerations around administration and shared expectations regarding program and system outcomes.

G. Options for what organization or entity will take on KCRHA's existing Right of Way contracts for master leased apartments with services.

H. Opportunities to continue and strengthen the work of the Ombuds Office, which is currently housed in KCRHA, to provide critical programmatic oversight.

I. An estimated timeframe budget for increased City costs related to dissolving or restructuring KCRHA and the fund source for those costs.

Section 4. Following submittal of the information requested in Section 3 of this resolution, the Mayor or designee should continue to report monthly to the Chair of the Human Services, Labor, and Economic Development Committee on the potential dissolution or restructure of KCRHA.

Adopted by the City Council and signed in open session in authentication of its adoption on .

President of the City Council  
Signed in concurrence on .

Katie B. Wilson, Mayor  
Attested on .

Scheereen Dedman, City Clerk

*Seal*

## Summary and Fiscal Note

### 1. Legislation Summary

This Resolution would provide next steps after the forensic evaluation of the King County Regional Homelessness Authority (KCRHA). The resolution would request that the Seattle Mayor and King County Executive: 1) take steps to immediately safeguard public funds; 2) Make a determination by June 1, 2026 if it is feasible for KCRHA to adequately address all of the findings in the forensic evaluation; 3) if found necessary, submit a plan by August 1, 2026, on how the City will approach the dissolution or restructure of KCRHA and; 4) submit monthly reports to the Chair of the Human Services, Labor and Economic Development Committee.

**Department:** Legislative

**Title:** A resolution regarding next steps after the forensic evaluation of the King County Regional Homelessness Authority (KCRHA); requesting that the Seattle Mayor and King County Executive take steps to immediately safeguard public funds, determine if it is feasible for KCRHA to adequately address all of the findings in the forensic evaluation, submit a set of next steps on how the City will approach the dissolution or restructure of KCRHA if determined to be necessary, and submit monthly reports to Council.

**Background:** In 2019, Seattle and King County executed an Interlocal Agreement establishing the King County Regional Homelessness Authority (KCRHA). That Interlocal Agreement was amended in November 2024. Either Seattle or King County may terminate the Amended Interlocal Agreement by an authorizing resolution or motion of its legislative body that is delivered to the other party, with a copy to KCRHA. Under the Interlocal Agreement, the effective date of the termination shall not be less than 12 months from the date that the County's motion or Seattle's resolution has been delivered to the other Party, with a copy to the KCRHA, unless the Mayor of Seattle and King County Executive jointly agree that termination can and should occur more quickly. In April 2026, Clark Nuber P.S. published a forensic evaluation of KCRHA that was committed by Seattle and King County. The evaluation identified many issues at KCRHA related to internal controls, unreconcilable receivables, financial reporting and accounting practices.

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## 2. Capital Improvement Program (CIP)

**Does this legislation create, fund, or amend a CIP Project?**

Yes

No

a. CIP Project Name:

b. Master Project ID:

c. Project Location:

d. Start Date:

e. End Date:

f. Total Project Cost Through 2030:

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### 3. Summary of Financial Implications

#### **Does this legislation have financial impacts to the City?**

Yes

No

Currently KCRHA administers most City-funded homeless service contracts for programs such as shelters, safe parking and day centers. If KCRHA were to dissolve, the City would need to administer those contracts directly. HSD would need to significantly increase staff in order to directly administer homeless service contracts. Since Seattle is currently paying for staff at KCRHA to administer these contracts, it is unclear if this would be a net neutral change, save money or increase costs. It is likely in the short term to increase costs, as there may be duplicative functions at both HSD and KCRHA as contracts transfer over or HSD may temporarily need to increase capacity to take on the complex task of shifting contracts. It is not clear at this time how any additional costs would be paid for. Council should anticipate that it will need to take budget action in the future, either through the 2027-2028 adopted budget, future mid-year supplemental budgets and/or stand-alone budget legislation to address costs.

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#### 4. Other Impacts

##### **a. Does this legislation require a public hearing?**

Yes

No

##### **b. Does this legislation require a notice to be published in The Daily Journal of Commerce and/or The Seattle Times?**

Yes

No

##### **c. Does this legislation affect a piece of property?**

No

d. Race and Social Justice Initiative impacts:

Black and indigenous households

**1. How does this legislation affect vulnerable or historically disadvantaged communities? How did you come to this conclusion? Please consider both impacts within City government (like employees and internal programs) and in the broader community.**

There are significant racial disparities in those experiencing homelessness. Based on the 2024 Point in Time analysis, 15% of people experiencing homelessness in King County identify as Black/African American, but according to 2023 U.S. Census data only 7% of King County's population identifies as Black/African American. Similarly, 6% of people experiencing homelessness identify as American Indian, Alaskan Native, or Indigenous, but that group makes up less than 1% of King County's population. Because of that, any potential disruption to homeless services due to the dissolution of KCRHA would have a disproportionate impact on black, indigenous and people of color, and especially on black and indigenous people experiencing homelessness.

**3. What is the Language Access Plan for communicating with the public about this legislation?** None

e. Climate change impacts:

**1. Emissions: Will this legislation significantly increase or decrease carbon emissions? Attach any studies or materials that inform your answer.** No

**2. Resiliency: Will this legislation make Seattle more or less able to adapt to climate change? If it reduces resiliency, explain what can be done to lessen the impact.** No

**f. If this legislation creates a new program or expands an existing one, what are the long-term, measurable goals? How will this legislation help achieve those goals? What methods will be used to track progress?** N/A

**g. Does this legislation create a non-utility CIP that involves shared funding with a non-City partner or organization?** No



SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL  
**CENTRAL STAFF**

# Resolution 32202: Next Steps After King County Regional Homelessness Authority Forensic Evaluation

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JENNIFER LABRECQUE, ANALYST

HUMAN SERVICES, LABOR & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

5/15/26

# Interlocal Agreement

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- In December 2019, Seattle and King County entered into an Interlocal Agreement (ILA) to establish the King County Regional Homelessness Authority (KCRHA) to provide a coordinated, regional approach to improve the delivery of homeless services and enhance outcomes for those receiving services.
- In November 2024, Seattle and King County entered the Amended and Restated ILA (Amended ILA) to streamline the governance structure at KCRHA to improve transparency, coordination, and oversight.
- Under the Amended ILA, the ILA can be terminated via a Seattle City Council resolution or King County motion; the effective date of the termination shall be at least 12 months later, unless the Mayor of Seattle and King County Executive jointly agree that termination can and should occur more quickly.

# Forensic Evaluation

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- In 2025, Clark Nuber P.S. was engaged by Seattle and King County to conduct a forensic evaluation of KCRHA covering the period from mid-2021 through July 31, 2025.
- The evaluation focused on financial condition, governance, and risk management practices, with particular attention to factors contributing to negative cash balances and opportunities to strengthen processes and oversight.
- The forensic evaluation report was released in April 2026, and it identified many issues at KCRHA related to internal controls, unreconcilable receivables, financial reporting and accounting practices.

# RES 32202 Summary, as Amended by Amendment 1 (1/2)

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Resolution recognizes that the following commitments that were made:

- In April, the KCRHA Governing Board created a Finance Committee; the Finance Committee must approve any new agreements that increase costs or liabilities, approve any recruitment and hiring for positions, and approve any discretionary spending.
- By May 8, KCRHA submits a response to Seattle's Human Services Department (HSD) and King County's Department of Community and Human Services describing how KCRHA will address five high-risk findings in the evaluation.
- By mid-May, Mayor and King County Executive commit that the City and County will coordinate to ensure sufficient accounting and oversight controls are in place within KCRHA.

# RES 32202 Summary, as Amended by Amendment 1 (2/2)

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Resolution requests that:

- No later than June 15, 2026, the Mayor or designee provides to the Chair of the Human Services, Labor and Economic Development (HSLED) Committee an initial assessment of the corrective action plan submitted by the KCRHA.
- No later than August 1, 2026, the Mayor or designee makes a recommendation to the Chair of the HSLED Committee on whether the City should terminate its participation in the Amended ILA and dissolve KCRHA, restructure KCRHA, or continue it as is.

## RES 32202 Summary, as Amended by Amendment 1 – Proposal for dissolution or restructure of KCRHA (1/2)

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If dissolution or restructure is recommended, the Mayor or designee should provide a plan no later than August 1, 2026, that addresses the following components:

- Guiding principles for shared adoption, including Seattle's shared values, such as minimal disruption to services and maintenance of regional approach to addressing homelessness
- Commitment to engage with stakeholders
- Options for how the City can strategically utilize this opportunity, such as around re-bid of homeless services contracts
- Update on potential approaches for Continuum of Care (CoC), as KCRHA is the CoC Lead Entity and performs many functions necessary to receive federal CoC funding
- Ensure HSD has sufficient capacity and staff to directly administer homeless service contracts again

## RES 32202 Summary, as Amended by Amendment 1 – Proposal for dissolution or restructure of KCRHA (2/2)

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- Options for how Seattle and King County will continue to maintain a regional approach to addressing homelessness, including severe weather response
- Options for what organization or entity will take on KCRHA's existing Right of Way contracts for master leased apartments with services
- Opportunities to continue and strengthen the work of the Ombuds Office, which is currently housed in KCRHA, to provide critical programmatic oversight
- An estimated timeframe budget for increased City costs related to dissolving or restructuring KCRHA and the fund source for those costs

## RES 32202 Summary, as Amended by Amendment 1 – Ongoing Reporting

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Resolution requests that:

- Mayor or designee should continue to report monthly to the Chair of the HSLED Committee on the potential dissolution or restructure of KCRHA

Questions?

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Human Services, Labor and Economic Development Committee  
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## **Amendment 1 Version 1 to RES 32202 KCRHA Forensic Evaluation Next Steps**

### **ILA**

**Sponsor:** Councilmember CM Rinck

Changes needed to align with the timeframes in a similar motion introduced at King County Council

**Effect:** The resolution as introduced had two reporting deadlines for the Mayor to provide information to the Chair of the Human Services, Labor and Economic Development Committee. The resolution required that the Mayor provide a determination by June 1, 2026, regarding whether or not the corrective action plan submitted by the King County Regional Homeless Authority (KCRHA) was feasible by June 1, 2026. If the Mayor determined the corrective action plan was not feasible, then the resolution requested the Mayor submit a plan no later than August 1, 2026 for the dissolution or restructure of KCRHA. This amendment makes several changes in order to align timing in this resolution with King County Motion 16970, introduced at King County Council last week. It now requests that the Mayor provide an initial assessment by June 15, 2026 on the corrective action plan, and now requests that the Mayor make a final recommendation by August 1, 2026 on whether to dissolve KCRHA, restructure it, or continue it as is. There are a few other minor changes as well for clarity.

Examples:

### **Amend title of RES 32202 as follows:**

**A resolution** regarding next steps after the forensic evaluation of the King County Regional Homelessness Authority (KCRHA); requesting that the Seattle Mayor ~~and King County Executive~~ take steps to immediately safeguard public funds, ~~determine if~~ provide an initial assessment of whether it is feasible for KCRHA to adequately address all of the findings in the forensic evaluation, recommend if KCRHA should be dissolved, restructured, or continue as is, submit a set of next steps on how the City will approach the dissolution or restructure of KCRHA if determined to be necessary, and submit monthly reports to Council.

**Amend Section 2 of RES 32202 as follows:**

Section 2. ~~The Mayor and King County Executive should determine if it is feasible for KCRHA to adequately address all of the findings in the forensic audit, and if so how long it would take and what the cost would be.~~ The April 22, 2026 cover letter to KCRHA requires that KCRHA must provide a written corrective action plan addressing each of the findings, including implementation timelines, by May 23, 2026. ~~The No later than June 15, 2026, the Mayor or designee should evaluate the viability of the proposed approach provide to the Chair of the Human Services, Labor, and Economic Development Committee an initial assessment of the corrective action plan submitted by KCRHA, and should also estimate cost of its implementation. The Mayor or designee should notify the Chair of the Human Services, Labor, and Economic Development Committee on whether or not they consider the proposed approach to be viable no later than June 1, 2026, including considerations around cost and length of time needed to address all findings. If the Mayor or designee finds that there is a viable plan for addressing all findings, the implementation plan, timeframe, and cost of implementing the plan should also be shared with the Chair of the Human Services, Labor, and Economic Development Committee no later than June 1, 2026.~~

**Amend Section 3 of RES 32202 as follows:**

Section 3. ~~If the Mayor or designee determines that there is no viable approach to addressing the forensic evaluation findings, then the Mayor or designee should~~

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~~submit a set of next steps that outline how the City will approach the dissolution or restructure of KCRHA in a measured and deliberative manner that supports a collective path forward. That path may include development of guiding principles, such as minimal disruption to services and maintenance of a regional approach to addressing homelessness, and convening a collaborative cross-jurisdictional table focused on the development of an effective service delivery system. The plan should be provided The Mayor or designee should, no later than August 1, 2026, make a recommendation to the Chair of the Human Services, Labor, and Economic Development Committee ~~no later than August 1, 2026. It should include the following components: on whether the City should terminate its participation in the Amended and Restated Interlocal Agreement and dissolve KCRHA, restructure KCRHA, or continue as is. If dissolution or restructure is recommended, then the Mayor or designee should also provide a plan no later than August 1, 2026 that addresses the following components:~~~~

A. Guiding principles for shared adoption, outlining Seattle’s shared values and key considerations in the path forward, such as minimal disruption to services and maintenance of a regional approach to addressing homelessness.

B. Exploration of convening a cross jurisdictional table focused on development of an effective service delivery system.

~~B. C.~~ A commitment to collaborative and meaningful engagement with key stakeholders, including homeless service providers and regional partners, around system planning and improving outcomes.

~~C. D.~~ Options for how the City should strategically utilize this opportunity to evaluate and adapt City investments in homeless services, which have not undergone

significant changes since 2017, ensure greater system to system connections to address upstream issues that lead to homelessness, and ensure alignment with other City approaches to homelessness.

~~D.~~ E. An update on potential approaches to the Continuum of Care (CoC) responsibilities that: assume dissolution of KCRHA would occur after 2026, so as not to create risk to Fiscal Year 2025 CoC contracts that are subject to renewal in 2026; take into account the Fiscal Year 2026 Notice of Funding Opportunity for CoC funding, which is expected to be published by the Department of Housing and Urban Development in the summer of 2026; and consider how CoC requirements such as conducting the Point-in-Time Count, managing Coordinated Entry and administering the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) will be maintained.

~~E.~~ F. Ensuring HSD has sufficient capacity and staffing to directly administer homeless service contracts again, including strong accounting and financial systems, internal controls, and oversight.

~~F.~~ G. Options for how Seattle and King County will continue to maintain a regional approach to addressing homelessness, including coordination of cross-jurisdictional severe weather sheltering efforts, and considerations around administration and shared expectations regarding program and system outcomes.

~~G.~~ H. Options for what organization or entity will take on KCRHA's existing Right of Way contracts for master leased apartments with services.

~~H.~~ I. Opportunities to continue and strengthen the work of the Ombuds Office, which is currently housed in KCRHA, to provide critical programmatic oversight.

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**† J.** An estimated timeframe budget for increased City costs related to dissolving or restructuring KCRHA and the fund source for those costs.