

City of Seattle



**Superintendent
Department of Parks and
Recreation**

**Confirmation Packet
February 11, 2015**

Jesús Aguirre

SECTION

A



City of Seattle
Edward B. Murray
Mayor

February 11, 2015

The Honorable Tim Burgess
President, Seattle City Council
Seattle City Hall, 2nd Floor
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Council President Burgess:

I am pleased to transmit to the City Council the following confirmation packet for my appointment of Jesús Aguirre as the City's Superintendent of Parks and Recreation.

The materials in this packet are divided into two sections:

A. Jesús Aguirre

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

B. Background Checks

This section contains the Mayor's Office report on Mr. Aguirre's background check.

Jesús Aguirre most recently served as the State Superintendent of Education for the District of Columbia, overseeing an agency with more than 1800 employees and responsibility for childcare licensing and subsidy programs for over 500 childcare providers, statewide K-12 education policy-making, support and accountability for over 200 public schools, and post-secondary and adult education, including post-secondary tuition assistance program for 6,500 students annually, and transportation for over 3,100 special needs students.

Prior to his role as State Superintendent of Education, Aguirre served as the director of the District of Columbia Department of Parks and Recreation. In this role, Aguirre oversaw the transformation of an agency of over 1000 full- and part-time employees by establishing a focus on outcomes-based programs, staff professional development, and an overall emphasis on providing equal access to high quality recreation and leisure programming to all residents and visitors of the District of Columbia. During his tenure, Aguirre led the agency through a comprehensive master planning process to drive the agency's work over the next 10 years, and

The Honorable Tim Burgess

February 11, 2015

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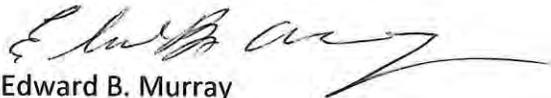
successfully achieved national accreditation for the agency, becoming one of 4 percent of all parks and recreation agencies receiving this recognition.

Aguirre is a proud father of three children attending public schools. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Biology from the University of Texas at Austin and a Masters in Business Administration from the W.P. Carey School of Business at Arizona State University.

Jesús' extensive prior experience leading and transforming large and complex departments are the perfect fit for the role of Superintendent of Seattle Parks and Recreation as we implement the upcoming changes with the creation of the voter-approved Seattle Metropolitan Park District. I urge you to confirm him.

If you have any questions about the attached materials or need additional information, please contact Chris Gregorich of my office, at 206-386-1251, or via e-mail, at chris.gregorich@seattle.gov.

Sincerely,



Edward B. Murray
Mayor



City of Seattle
Edward B. Murray
Mayor

February 11, 2015

Jesús Aguirre
Washington, DC 20015
Transmitted via e-mail

Dear Jesús,

It gives me great pleasure to appoint you to the position of Superintendent of Parks and Recreation (Executive 4), effective June 1, 2015 at an annual salary of \$190,000.

Your term of office is four years and you serve at the pleasure of the Mayor. Your appointment as Director is subject to City Council confirmation; therefore, you will need to attend the Council's confirmation hearings.

Your contingent offer letter provided employment information related to the terms of your employment, benefits, vacation, holiday and sick leave. If you have questions about your employment with the City of Seattle please contact Galen Mauden, FAS Human Resources Director, at (206) 684-0516.

I look forward to working with you in your role as Superintendent and wish you success. We have much work ahead of us, and I am confident that the Department of Parks and Recreation will thrive beyond expectation under your leadership.

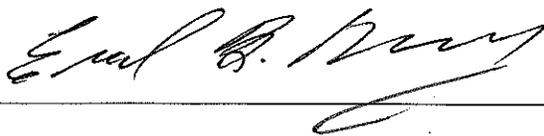
Sincerely,


Edward B. Murray
Mayor

cc: Human Resources

City of Seattle

Notice of Appointment

Name: Jesús Aguirre	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Executive Appointment <input type="checkbox"/> Legislative Appointment
Appointed to: Superintendent of Parks and Recreation	Date of Appointment: 2/11/2015
Authority (Ord., Res.): Seattle City Charter Article XI	Term of Office From: June 1, 2015 To: May 31, 2019
<p>Comments: Jesús Aguirre most recently served as the State Superintendent of Education for the District of Columbia, overseeing an agency with more than 1800 employees and responsibility for childcare licensing and subsidy programs for over 500 childcare providers, statewide K-12 education policy-making, support and accountability for over 200 public schools, and post-secondary and adult education, including post-secondary tuition assistance program for 6,500 students annually, and transportation for over 3,100 special needs students.</p> <p>Prior to his role as State Superintendent of Education, Aguirre served as the director of the District of Columbia Department of Parks and Recreation. In this role, Aguirre oversaw the transformation of an agency of over 1000 full- and part-time employees by establishing a focus on outcomes-based programs, staff professional development, and an overall emphasis on providing equal access to high quality recreation and leisure programming to all residents and visitors of the District of Columbia. During his tenure, Aguirre led the agency through a comprehensive master planning process to drive the agency's work over the next 10 years, and successfully achieved national accreditation for the agency, becoming one of 4 percent of all parks and recreation agencies receiving this recognition.</p> <p>Aguirre is a proud father of three children attending public schools. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Biology from the University of Texas at Austin and a Masters in Business Administration from the W.P. Carey School of Business at Arizona State University.</p> <p>Jesús' extensive prior experience leading and transforming large and complex departments are the perfect fit for the role of Superintendent of Seattle Parks and Recreation as we implement the upcoming changes with the creation of the voter-approved Seattle Metropolitan Park District.</p>	
Authorizing Signature: 	Name and Title of Officer Making Appointment: Edward B. Murray, Mayor



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

STATE OF WASHINGTON

COUNTY OF KING

I, Jesús Aguirre, swear or affirm that I possess all the qualifications prescribed in the Seattle City Charter and the Seattle Municipal Code for the position of Superintendent of Parks and Recreation; 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 *Superintendent of Parks and Recreation*.

Jesús Aguirre

**Subscribed and sworn to before me
this _____ day of _____, 2015**

(affix seal)

Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk

Jesús S. Aguirre

EDUCATION

Masters in Business Administration; Arizona State University
May 2006

Bachelor of Arts: Biology/Pre-Medicine; University of Texas at Austin;
August 1990

The SUPES Academy
February 2015

Executive Leadership Program, George Washington University
November 2014

Directors School, National Parks and Recreation Association
August 2013

EXPERIENCE

State Superintendent of Education, District of Columbia
Washington, D.C.; October 2013 - Present

Serve as District of Columbia chief state schools officer and liaison with US Department of Education. Manage agency with 1800 employees and budget of \$1.2 billion. Oversee childcare licensing and subsidy programs for over 500 childcare providers, statewide K-12 education support and accountability for over 200 schools, and post-secondary and adult education, including post-secondary tuition assistance program for 6,500 students annually, and transportation for over 3,100 students.

- Led agency through realignment aimed at increasing efficiencies and better serving constituents; includes focus on sustainability in light of lost federal dollars, blending of specialized instruction and K-12 programs, and consolidation of grants management, data, and financial functions
- Eliminated significant budget shortfalls through functional consolidation, efficiencies, and stringent controls
- Oversaw launch of electronic enterprise grants management system
- Managed final exit from federal high-risk status
- Worked to finalize adoption of next generation science standards
- Implemented transition to next-generation, college- and career-ready aligned assessments, including science, health, ELA and math
- Successfully negotiated ESEA flexibility waiver amendments and extension
- Revamped early learning division to focus on quality through creation of quality improvement networks and new quality improvement rating system

Agency Director, District of Columbia Department of Parks and Recreation

Washington, D.C.; December 2009 – September 2013

Managed city agency with 1000 full- and part-time employees, \$48 million operating budget, and \$100 million capital budget, overseeing operations and programming at 68 recreation centers, 40 aquatic facilities, and several hundred parks, fields, playgrounds, and athletic courts.

- Restructured historically underperforming agency and created new outcomes-based programmatic framework, revamped operational systems, and established new brand
- Established new divisions to increase revenue generation and renewed focus on parks
- Resolved historic and chronic funding and staffing challenges
- Led agency to achieve national accreditation for the first time in its history, and only one of 4% of parks and recreation agencies to become nationally accredited.
- Led process to create ten year agency master plan, including long-term program and facilities strategies, involving thousands of stakeholders
- Led creation of \$40 million city wide playground initiative aimed at renewing focus on parks and outdoor play spaces in the city, including a focus on accessibility, sustainability, and intergenerational programming
- Oversaw design and construction of \$115 million in facilities development
- Established robust professional development program for all staff for first time in agency
- Significantly increased revenue from outside resources through fees and grants, and established new legislative authority for sponsorships and advertising

Director, Office of School Operations, District of Columbia Public Schools

Washington, D.C.; August 2007 – December 2009

Created and managed new division to provide operational support to principals and instructional superintendents at over 120 schools, ensuring central office operations were responsive to the needs of schools. Managed district-wide security services, technology support, food services, student enrollment, and emergency response planning, with budgets totaling over \$60 million.

- Created a team to resolve human resources, budgeting, facilities, procurement and other operational challenges for school principals and instructional superintendents
- Recouped millions in funding through improvements in annual student enrollment audit, reducing lost per-pupil funding
- Recouped millions in funding through revamping of district's E-Rate program to maximize reimbursements for telecommunications services and internet connectivity
- Established first district-wide emergency response plan
- Revamped school budgeting process increasing transparency and efficiency
- Supported the development of new systems for school-opening resulting in significant improvements of a chronically troubled process

Other Experience

Director, Professional Development, Zaner-Bloser Publishing, Inc., Voices Programs

Newton, MA; June 2006 to August 2007

- Managed professional development team and provided direct training to teachers and principals on comprehensive language and literacy program integrating social and democratic skills

Co-founder & Executive Director, Tertulia Pre-College Community Charter School

Phoenix, AZ; 1995 – 2006

- K-8 Dual-language Charter School

Teach for America

New York City, Los Angeles, Houston; 1992-1995

- Regional Support Director: Initiated professional development and support for a cadre of 48 first and second year teachers
- Founding Regional Executive Director: Teach for America spin-off organization (TEACH!); responsible for district contract solicitations and negotiations, fundraising, and state-level legislative affairs
- Regional Recruiter: Outreach and recruitment at colleges and universities in Southwestern U.S.

Middle School Science Teacher, Los Angeles Unified School District

Los Angeles, CA; 1990-1992

Boards and Commissions

- Governing Board Member, *Partnership for the Assessment of Readiness for College and Career (PARCC) Consortium*
- Governing Board Member, *Regional Educational Laboratory, Mid Atlantic*
- *Member, Council of Chief State School Officers*
- Co-chair, Labor Management Partnership Council Customer Care Sub-Committee
- Co-Chair, State Early Childhood Development Coordinating Council
- Member, *RaiseDC Leadership Council*
- Board of Directors, Children and Youth Investment Trust Corporation
- Board of Directors, Town Hall Arts and Recreation Center
- Commissioner, Commission on African American Affairs
- Member, Educational Opportunity for Military Children State Council
- Member, Mayor's Early Success Council
- Member, Community School Advisory Committee
- Member, Workforce Investment Council
- Member, Mayor's Council on Health and Physical Fitness
- Member, Mayor's Bullying Prevention Taskforce

SECTION

B



City of Seattle
Edward B. Murray, Mayor

NEWS RELEASE **FROM THE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact: Viet Shelton, Mayor's Office Communications Director, 206.552.4996
Jason Kelly, Mayor's Office Press Secretary, 206.684.8379

Mayor Murray nominates Jesús Aguirre to lead parks department

SEATTLE (Feb. 11, 2015) –Mayor Ed Murray today nominated Jesús Aguirre to lead Seattle Parks and Recreation as superintendent.

Aguirre has a [diverse set of experiences](#) from working as an educator, parks director and - most recently - as State Superintendent of Education for the District of Columbia. He was selected after a national search.

“This is a pivotal moment for Seattle’s parks,” Murray said. “Seattle is a thriving city growing at a tremendous pace, and we must ensure that the services provided by Parks and Recreation support the increasing and evolving needs and interests of all our residents. Jesús’s leadership will be vital to activating our parks system, improving infrastructure, and securing the future of our parks for generations,” Murray said.

Aguirre turned around an ailing parks system in D.C. by reforming operations, leveraging outside resources and responding to a changing populous and growing urban setting. During his tenure there, Aguirre was able to solve a number budget challenges, improve operations, revamp parks programs, implement a robust capital improvement program, develop a long-term master plan and receive national accreditation for the agency.

“I am confident that Jesus Aguirre is the leader who can manage our magnificent Department of Parks and Recreation and its talented staff during this exciting time in our City,” said [Councilmember Jean Godden](#), Chair of the Council’s [Parks, Seattle Center, Libraries and Gender Pay Equity Committee](#).

“I am honored to be joining the City of Seattle to help lead a parks system that is already the envy of most of the nation. I look forward to working closely with our communities to develop programming and build and maintain facilities that support these needs and interests of all residents,” Aguirre said.

Murray also praised acting superintendent Christopher Williams for his service in a time of budget cuts and financial uncertainty caused by the great recession. Williams, who is moving to the title of deputy superintendent, has worked at the department since 1992.

“Christopher has been a tremendous asset to our parks, his employees and the city,” Murray said. “I know he will continue his good work in the years ahead as he takes time to work through his ongoing health issues.”

Aguirre will be transitioning into the role over the coming months. He will assume responsibilities on a full-time basis on June 1st pending council confirmation.

Seattle Parks and Recreation manages more than 6,300 acres of public land and 26 community centers – along with trails, pools and boulevards. The department has a \$147 million budget in 2015, and about 930 full-time employees.

-MoS-



City of Seattle

Edward B. Murray, Mayor

Seattle Department of Human Resources
Susan L. Coskey, Director

Date: February 10, 2015

To: Adam Schaefer, City Budget Office
Linnet Madeja, City Budget Office

From: Susan Coskey, Director, Seattle Department of Human Resources *SM*

Subject: **BACKGROUND CHECK – JESUS AGUIRRE**

The HR Department has received a copy of Jesus Aguirre's background check run by A-Check Global. There were no findings that would impact the employment eligibility of Mr. Aguirre.

cc: Personnel File, Parks Superintendent

