



SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL

Public Safety and Human Services Committee

September 13, 2022

From: Councilmember Herbold, Chair, Public Safety and Human Services Committee
To: Council President Juarez
RE: Appointment of Gino Betts as OPA Director

Section 3.29.115 of the Accountability Ordinance (Ordinance 125315) governs the appointment and removal of the Office of Police Accountability (OPA) Director. Upon any vacancy in the Director position, the Ordinance requires that the Mayor make an appointment in accordance with the process described in Section 3.29.115, with such appointment being subject to a confirmation by a majority vote of the full Council. The Ordinance indicates that the Mayor has 90 days to make an appointment. If the Mayor does not make an appointment within 90 days of the first day of the expiration of a term, of a vacancy, or of a rejection by the Council, the public safety committee of the Seattle City Council shall appoint the OPA Director.

In the March 8 meeting of the Public Safety and Human Services Committee, Senior Deputy Mayor Harrell indicated that the Mayor would not make an appointment in 90 days and articulated a rationale for a longer search timeline that would produce a higher quality candidate. Instead, the Mayor desired to follow the process presented to the committee.

Pursuant to its requirements under the Accountability Ordinance, the Public Safety and Human Services Committee adopted that [process](#) for the appointment at the March 22nd meeting. In doing so, the Public Safety and Human Rights Committee became the appointing authority for the OPA Director in this instance.

Consistent with this authority, on September 13, 2022, the Public Safety and Human Services Committee voted in the affirmative to appoint Gino Betts as Director of the Office of Police Accountability, with four Councilmembers voting yes and one abstaining.

As Chair of the Public Safety and Human Services Committee, I am requesting that you add the legislation to the Introduction and Referral Calendar and place it on the Council agenda to enable the City Council to confirm this appointment.

Sincerely,

Councilmember Lisa Herbold