Summary and Fiscal Note

1. Legislation Summary

Department: Office of Economic Development

Title: An ordinance relating to the Ballard Business Improvement Area; amending Section 6 of Ordinance 126911 to clarify a provision on assessment escalations.

Background: The Ballard BIA's current ordinance includes an annual inflationary adjustment, but the wording in subsection 6.E.2.B is ambiguous. This ambiguity could affect how yearly assessment increases should be calculated—whether they are capped at a fixed amount, tied to cumulative inflation, or based on annual CPI-U changes applied to the prior year's assessment. Only the third approach reflects the original intent and the method already used in Year 2, prompting the BIA to seek a technical clarification to ensure consistent, predictable implementation. Additionally, the current ordinance requires using CPI-U data from the previous October, but that information is not always available — as we saw this past October during the government shutdown. This amendment includes language to address this specifically.

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2. Capital Improvement Program (CIP)

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

☐ Yes

☒ No

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3. Summary of Financial Implications

Does this legislation have financial impacts to the City?

☐ Yes

☒ No

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4. Other Impacts

a. Does this legislation require a public hearing?

☐ Yes

☒ No

While a public hearing is not required, a public hearing is scheduled for [month, day, time] because this legislation may affect ratepayer expectations.

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?

This legislation clarifies how the properties within the Ballard Business Improvement Area are assessed. However, there are no direct financial impact to ratepayers.

d. Race and Social Justice Initiative impacts:

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.

The technical correction proposed by this amendment does not have a disproportionate impact on vulnerable or historically disadvantaged communities.

2. Please attach any Racial Equity Toolkits or other racial equity analyses used to develop or assess this legislation.

N/A

3. What is the Language Access Plan for communicating with the public about this legislation?

All notifications to property owners will include an option for translation/interpretation if needed.

e. Climate change impacts:

1. Emissions: Will this legislation significantly increase or decrease carbon emissions? Attach any studies or materials that inform your answer.

This legislation is not likely to impact carbon emissions in a material way.

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.

This legislation is not likely to impact Seattle's resiliency in a material way.

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.