



City of Seattle Boards & Commissions Notice of Appointment

Appointee Name: Diego Escame-Hedger		
Board/Commission Name: Seattle Youth Commission		Position Title: Commissioner
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Appointment OR <input type="checkbox"/> Reappointment	City Council Confirmation required? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Appointing Authority: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City Council <input type="checkbox"/> Mayor <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	Term of Position: * 9/1/2020 to 8/31/2022 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Serving remaining term of a vacant position</i>	
Residential Neighborhood: Fauntleroy	Zip Code: 98136	Contact Phone No.: [REDACTED]
Background: Instead of me writing about them, I have chosen to let their words speak for themselves: <p>“There are many issues in my community that I am passionate about. One of the things that I am passionate about is combating racism because in this day and age it is a huge issue that I don't think is talked about enough. As a person of color, I have faced racism my entire life and I want to help bring change to fight it. On several occasions, I participated in Black Lives Matter protests to fight the injustice and systemic racism in our country. While many people think that Seattle is a very progressive and inclusive city, we still struggle with racial equity and inclusivity for all.</p> <p>In my first two years of high school, I attended Vashon High School, where the majority of the population is white. Being one of the few people of color at that school, I was discriminated against and was called many different racist slurs. This made me change my perspective on Seattle as a whole and made me realize that it still needs a lot of change. Another thing that I am very passionate about is stopping climate change because our future depends on stopping it. Climate change is a very real issue that is currently being ignored by the government, and I wish to change that. I know that real change is possible and needs to happen now. My generation is going to face the consequences of decisions that continue to allow the environment to suffer which is why it is so important to me.”</p>		
Authorizing Signature (original signature):  Date Signed (appointed): 3/5/21	Appointing Signatory: Dan Strauss Councilmember, District 6	

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

#24

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, November 03, 2020 6:33:17 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, November 03, 2020 11:54:19 PM
Time Spent: 05:21:02

Page 2: 2020-21 Application

Q1

Name

Diego Escame-Hedger

Q2

Please provide your contact information.

Street Address

[REDACTED]

City, State

Seattle

Zip Code

[REDACTED]

Phone Number

[REDACTED]

Email Address

[REDACTED]

Q3

What is your age?

16

Q4

Tell us where you go to school.

School Name

West Seattle High School and South Seattle Community College

Grade Level

Junior

Q5

Why do you want to become a member of the Seattle Youth Commission?

I want to become a member of the Seattle Youth Commission because I want to make changes in my that reflect the values and beliefs of our diverse community and leave a lasting impact on my hometown. I am also very passionate about politics, and it would be a great experience to work with local government leaders and other youth in my community to improve the lives of people in Seattle.

Q6

What are the issues in your community that you are passionate about and why?

There are many issues in my community that I am passionate about. One of the things that I am passionate about is combating racism because in this day and age it is a huge issue that I don't think is talked about enough. As a person of color, I have faced racism my entire life and I want to help bring change to fight it. On several occasions, I participated in Black Lives Matter protests to fight the injustice and systemic racism in our country. While many people think that Seattle is a very progressive and inclusive city, we still struggle with racial equity and inclusivity for all.

In my first two years of high school, I attended Vashon High School, where the majority of the population is white. Being one of the few people of color at that school, I was discriminated against and was called many different racist slurs. This made me change my perspective on Seattle as a whole and made me realize that it still needs a lot of change. Another thing that I am very passionate about is stopping climate change because our future depends on stopping it. Climate change is a very real issue that is currently being ignored by the government, and I wish to change that. I know that real change is possible and needs to happen now. My generation is going to face the consequences of decisions that continue to allow the environment to suffer which is why it is so important to me.

Q7

What do you hope to gain from this experience?

I want to gain the skills and background to improve the lives of people in my city. It has always been a passion of mine to help others, and it is a virtue that I value deeply and try to live my life by. I hope to gain knowledge about the current political climate, and better improve upon my learning in politics. This program will help me understand how our city works, and what we can do to improve it. I look forward to collaborating with others, so that together, we can provide a different perspective on issues in our community. I believe that having diversity in opinions allows for innovation.

Q8

What do you think makes your perspective unique to others?

I think that my perspective is very unique because I am a 16-year-old person of mixed races. My awareness of who I am has shaped the way I view the world and interact with others. My empathy for others is very strong because I know how it feels to be treated differently because of my skin color. My perspective is also influenced by how I was treated in a predominately white high school. As a consequence of attending Vashon, I became aware of my race and how important it is to not be ashamed of one's heritage.

I also have a deep connection to the arts. I am passionate about making rap music and have been involved with the non-profit organization, Totemstar. This program has allowed me to pursue my musical goals. I have worked with several adult mentors who have helped me grow musically and as a person. Through participating in this program, it made me realize that the arts are important and should be valued as such in the community.

Q9

The City of Seattle's Race and Social Justice Initiative advances racial equity in city government and the community. What are your ideas about applying race and social justice principles as a Seattle Youth Commissioner?

As a Seattle Youth Commissioner, I would help provide ideas for racial equity in city programs and policies. I would help by promoting programs that teach criminal justice and systemic racism to police officers, so they could better understand it. I would also advocate for police reform, and holding officers accountable for their misconduct. I would also encourage the organizations that the city partners with to provide awareness and education about race and social justice issues.

Page 3: Interviews

Q10

Monday, October 12th

SYC interviews will be scheduled for October 12th and 13th. Which of these days are you available? *Interviews will be held on the phone or another virtual platform.

Page 4: References

Q11

Reference #1

Name	Chris Kindem
Phone	[REDACTED]
Email	[REDACTED]

Q12

Reference #2

Name	Matt Sablan
Phone	[REDACTED]
Email	[REDACTED]

Q13

Reference #3

Name	Matty Achepohl
Phone	[REDACTED]
Email	[REDACTED]

Seattle Youth Commission

15 Members: Pursuant to Ordinance 125029, 15 members subject to City Council confirmation, 2-year terms:

- 7 City Council- Appointed
- 8 Mayoral- Appointed

*D	**G	RD	Position No.	Position Title	Name	Term Begin Date	Term End Date	Term #	Appointed By
2	M	2	1.	Member At-Large	Abdiweli Abdi	9/01/2019	8/31/2021	2	Mayor
	F	5	2.	Member At-Large	Ahana Roy	9/01/2019	8/31/2021	1	Mayor
			3.	District #2	Vacant	9/01/2019	8/31/2021		City Council
	F	NA	4.	Member At-Large	Angelica Valenzuela	9/01/2019	8/31/2021	1	Mayor
	F	5	5.	District #4	Katherine Kang	9/01/2020	8/31/2022	2	City Council
	F	2	6.	Member At-Large	Edhil Haid	9/01/2020	8/31/2022	1	Mayor
	F	5	7.	District #6	Eleanor Cename	9/01/2020	8/31/2022	1	Mayor
	F	5	8.	Member At-Large	Elsa Assefa	9/01/2020	8/31/2022	1	Mayor
			9.	Member At-Large	Vacant	9/01/2019	8/31/2021		City Council
	M	1	10.	Member At-Large	Kevin Jackson Hu	9/01/2019	8/31/2021	1	City Council
	F	5	11.	District #5	Samara Wijesekera	9/01/2019	8/31/2021	1	City Council
			12.	District #7	Vacant	9/01/2019	8/31/2021		City Council
	M	2	13.	District #1	Diego Escame-Hedger	9/01/2020	8/31/2022	1	City Council
	F	6	14.	Member At-Large	Leah Scott	9/01/2020	8/31/2022	1	Mayor
	M	2	15.	District #3	Lincoln Hilliard Wilmore	9/01/2020	8/31/2022	1	Mayor

SELF-IDENTIFIED DIVERSITY CHART

	SELF-IDENTIFIED DIVERSITY CHART		(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)		
	Male	Female	Transgender	NB/ O/ U	Asian	Black/ African American	Hispanic/ Latino	American Indian/ Alaska Native	Other	Caucasian/ Non-Hispanic	Pacific Islander	Middle Eastern	Multiracial
Mayor	2	6											
Council	2	2											
Other													
Total	3	9											

Key:

*D List the corresponding Diversity Chart number (1 through 9)

**G List gender, M= Male, F= Female, T= Transgender, NB= Non-Binary O= Other U= Unknown

RD Residential Council District number 1 through 7 or N/A

Diversity information is self-identified and is voluntary.