

WHEREAS, the Human Services Department serves as the Area Agency on Aging for all of King County, relying heavily on non-profit partners to deliver services to older adults in the County; and

WHEREAS, a state of emergency stemming from the number of individuals and families experiencing homelessness, particularly unsheltered homelessness, continues in Seattle with disproportionate impacts on people of color; and

WHEREAS, communities that have ended homelessness have done so by fully engaging every stakeholder, including non-profit human services providers, individuals who have or are experiencing homelessness, City employees, civic leadership, government institutions, local businesses, and philanthropic institutions; and

WHEREAS, the City has committed to eliminating institutional racism and racial and social disparities across key indicators of success, including health, education, criminal justice, and employment, as affirmed in Resolution 31164; and

WHEREAS, on January 15, 2019, the Seattle Human Services Coalition provided a letter to the City Council asking the Council to return the nomination of Jason Johnson and request a full search process that would include integral participation of human services providers, program participants, Human Services Department employees, and other public partners; and

WHEREAS, on January 24, 2019, 100 people came out to the Council's Human Services, Equitable Development, and Renter's Rights Committee meeting, and 35 people, including many employees of the Human Services Department, spoke out against the Council moving forward with this nomination and called for an open, inclusive search process; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE THAT:

Section 1. The City Council shall not take action on the nomination of the Director of the Human Services Department until a formal search process that comports with the goals and priorities of the City's Race and Social Justice Initiative is completed.

Section 2. The Council requests that the Mayor convene a search committee that includes representatives of non-profit human services providers, individuals who have or are experiencing homelessness and other clients of the Human Services Department, and employees in the Human Services Department. Representatives of Human Services Department employees should be selected by PROTEC 17 and the Human Services Department Change Team and Caucuses. The search committee should consider the qualifications, skills, and attributes sought in the next Director of the Human Services Department necessary to effectively lead the Human Services Department in carrying out its mission and meeting statutory requirements for the department, including, but not limited to, expertise in:

1. Serving low-income populations and populations at risk for or experiencing homelessness;
2. Addressing institutional discrimination and racial disparities;
3. Incorporating the principles of the City’s Race and Social Justice Initiative in leading and managing staff;
4. Managing large institutions; and
5. Promoting continuous improvement in serving the needs of Seattle residents.

Adopted by the City Council the _____ day of _____, 2019, and signed by me in open session in authentication of its adoption this _____ day of _____, 2019.

President _____ of the City Council

Filed by me this _____ day of _____, 2019.

Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk

(Seal)