

# Seattle Economic Development Commission

## 1) ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSE OF THE SEATTLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

The City of Seattle is forming an Economic Development Commission (EDC) as an ongoing body representing a cross section of business and industry and higher education to advise and make recommendations to the Mayor and City Council on the development of plans, policies, regulations, and strategies that have substantial impact on creating and maintaining a resilient, sustainable, and equitable economy in the City of Seattle.

The goal of this body is to advance a common vision for economic development as embodied in the Mayor's Seattle Jobs Plan and Council Resolution 31282 with particular attention to the roles and actions of the City of Seattle to achieve the following shared objectives:

- Seattle has a highly skilled and adaptive workforce to meet the evolving needs of employers competing in a rapidly changing global economy and a world class system of education and training to ensure all residents, regardless of income, have an opportunity to obtain employment that supports a decent quality of life.
- Seattle nurtures a policy and regulatory environment that encourages innovation and supports business formation, retention, and expansion.
- Seattle is well informed of the areas where it enjoys historic and emerging competitive advantage and actively partners with business, industry, and higher education to maintain and grow its leadership in those economic sectors.
- Seattle protects its natural assets, maintains its capital assets, and invests in next generation infrastructure so that industry thrives and residents enjoy a high quality of life.

This body also serves as the place for City of Seattle departments to share information on upcoming issues and opportunities of relevance to the health of Seattle's economy and create a connection and alignment among various public, private, and not-for-profit economic development initiatives.

The Commission includes leadership representative of a broad range of business, labor, and industry with the knowledge and networks needed to provide informed advice and decision-making. The initial work of this body will include, but not be limited to:

- Identification of key substantive local issues that influence our ability to achieve the above mentioned vision
- Prioritization of work based on research recommendations
- Work with City staff to identify *leadership actions* that the City of Seattle can undertake in the next two years based on the prioritized recommendations, ideas and resources.

- Work with City staff to identify issues or actions for which the City of Seattle can *offer support in some form* (including but not limited to financial support) during the next two years
- Oversight towards accomplishment of the selected actions
- Development of an effective ongoing communication conduit between City of Seattle departments and industry
- Building participation by business, labor, industry, and community leaders in advancing a common vision for economic development
- Ongoing evaluation of annual progress towards the City of Seattle's economic development priorities

## 2) CITY OF SEATTLE STAFF SUPPORT

- a) The Seattle Economic Development Commission will be staffed by the Office of Economic Development.

## 3) COMMISSIONERS

- a) Commissioners are to serve as formal advisors to the City of Seattle to provide guidance and direction to the City regarding its leadership and support of economic development.
- b) The Commission is comprised of 10 members. Appointments shall be made to ensure that varied economic perspectives are represented, including business size, industry type, organized labor, neighborhood business, minority-owned business, woman-owned business, local economic professionals, and representatives of post-high school educational
- c) All positions are numbered one through 10. Individuals shall be appointed into those numbered positions. Members in odd numbered positions shall be appointed by a majority vote of the Council. Individuals in even numbered positions shall be appointed by the Mayor, subject to confirmation by a majority vote of the Council. All positions shall be filled as soon as practicable after the Council and Mayor have authorized the creation of the Commission.
- d) For the initial round of appointments all positions will be for one year. After the first year the positions will be staggered: positions one through five will serve one-year terms, positions five through ten will serve two-year terms. After the conclusion of these terms, all subsequent terms of each position shall be for two years.
- e) The Commission shall meet at least 6 times per year.
- f) One member will be elected Chairperson, and one will be elected Vice Chairperson, who shall serve as Chair in the absence of the Chairperson.
- g) The Commission shall strive to ensure that the varied interests of the Seattle economy are represented as equally as possible. Diversity of members' race and gender will also be an important consideration.

- h) The Seattle Economic Development Commission shall cooperate with other state and local offices as required to promote economic development in the state and region.

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