Clerk File 312479

City of Seattle
Notice of Appointment

Name: **Mergitu Argo**		**Executive Appointment X Reappointment** **X Legislative Appointment** ☐ **Agency Appointment** ☐ **PDA Council** ☐ **PDA Constituency**
Residential Neighborhood: **Skyway**	**Zip Code:** **98178**	**Contact Phone No.:** **206-684-4500**
Appointed to: **Seattle Women's Commission**		**Date of Appointment:**
Authority (Ord., Res.): **Ordinance 118392**		**Term of Office:** **From: Confirmation** **To: July 1, 2014**

Background: New Appointment

Mergitu Argo

For the past five years Mergitu has worked for Neighborhood House as an employment specialist. She also has worked in various positions at the Refugee Women's Alliance for the past 8 years. She does classroom interpreting, parent education workshops and case management for the ESL/DD participants and family advocating for East African's who speak Amharic and Oromiffa. She has been a job coach for Rainier Vista which opened up the door for other opportunities working with employers and other service providers around King County. Her formal training is in case management and working in the community by teaching parenting education. And finally, her training as an administrative assistant, years of work experience at the Refugee Women's Alliance (ReWA), Neighborhood House, serving on the African Community Network board in Washington, and the East African Police Advisory Council has positioned her to be a good candidate for the Seattle Women's Commission as she continues to advocate for refugee and immigrant women in Seattle.

Authorizing Signature: Bruce A. Harrell	**Name and Title of Officer Making Appointments:** **Bruce Harrell, City Councilmember**

Revised 5/11

Mergitu Argo

Objective:

To utilize my experience and extensive community outreach skills in the social service field where I can make a difference on behalf of people who are socially and economically disadvantaged.

Relevant Experience:

4/2006 – Current Neighborhood House Seattle WA

Employment Specialist and Case Manager

- Conduct community outreach to low-income, English language learners, and vulnerable population.
- Assist with employment orientation and search.
- Assist White Center resident with job search and placement with positions at Seattle International Airport.
- Assist applicants with job preparation, mock-up interviews, conduct resume workshops and development.
- Conduct retention surveys with clients.
- Assist clients with housing, child care and transportation issues to obtain and retain job and ensure successful transition.

2/1997 – 4/2006 Refugee Women's Alliance Seattle WA

Family Advocate and Employment Specialist

- Provide ESL education, parenting class and cross-cultural tips to the East African refugee women and families.
- Provide case management, assist women with personal and family related crisis, assessed their needs and referred them to appropriate services.
- Assist women through the process of job search, obtaining and keeping jobs.
- Provided translations and interpretations to Oromo and Amharic speaking women who use services at the agency.

- Facilitate resume development job preparation and interviews.
- Conduct workshops on bicultural parenting, American school system and women's support topics.

2/1996 – 2/2006 Yohana International Interpreter Services Seattle WA
Interpreter

- Interpreted for Oromiffa and Amharic speaking clients in social services, health care and legal services.
- Translated written documents from English to Oromo and Amharic, and Vise versa.

5/1993 – 2/1997 Horizon House Retirement Home Seattle WA
Nursing Assistant

- Assisted physically and mentally disabled and other seniors with regular daily needs such as eating and hygienic needs.
- Monitored and assisted residents to take medications proper and in timely manner.

8/1992 – 7/1995 Restorative Care Center Seattle WA
Nursing Assistant

- Assisted physically and mentally disabled and other seniors with regular daily needs such as eating and personal hygienic needs.
- Assisted residents with proper and timely medication and do a range of motion with them.

Education:

2007 Leadership and supervision certificate Seattle WA
2000 Case management certificate Renton WA
1999 Child and Family study SCCC Seattle WA
1999 Family resources coordinator certificate Seattle WA
1997 Administrative Assistant certificate Renton WA
1995 Medical Assistant Certificate Seattle WA
1992 Nursing Assistant Certificate Kent WA

Community Activities:

1998 – Present	African community network (ACN) Board of directors Seattle WA
2001 – Present	Trusted Advocate White Center Seattle WA
1998 – 2004	Refugee and Immigrant Parent Advocacy Network - advisory board Seattle WA
1999 – 2005	Oromo community in Seattle Board of directors Seattle WA

Summary of Qualifications:

Demonstrated desire and skills to work with multi-cultural women and family. Experience assisting low-income families with job placement and emergency needs. Substantial experience in translating, transcribing and fluency in two East African languages.

REFERENCES AVAILABLE UPON REQEST

Seattle Women's Commission

August 2012

21 Commission members: Per S.M.C. 3.14.920, confirmed by City Council, **2-year** terms*

- 9 Appointed by Mayor
- 9 Appointed by City Council
- 2 Appointed by the Commission, confirmed by City Council
- 1 member *Get Engaged: City Boards and Commissions* program: Appointed by Mayor, confirmed by City Council –1-year term-appointed in September

D*	G	Name	Appointed	Term Ends	Term #	Position	Appointed By
	F	Vacant		07/01/14	1st		City Council
3	F	Emily Alvardo	03/31/10	07/01/14	1st		City Council
2	F	Mergitu Argo	06/21/10	07/01/14	1st		City Council
6	F	Laura Cava, Northrop	08/31/09	07/01/13	1st		City Council
6	F	W.M. Gillihan	08/31/09	07/01/13	1st	Co/Chair	City Council
6	F	Mallory Gitt	12/1/09	07/01/13	1st		City Council
1	F	Maha Jahshan	08/31/09	07/01/13	1st		City Council
6	F	Betsy McConnell-Gutierrez	03/13/08	07/01/14	3rd		City Council
6	F	Alison Mondi	08/31/09	07/01/13	1st		City Council
6	F	Michele Frix	03/6 /12	07/01/14	1st		Commission
6	F	Melanie Dane	03/6 /12	07/01/13	1st		Commission
4	F	Abigail Echo/Hawk	07/26/10	07/01/13	3rd	Co-Chair	Mayor
6	F	Anne Luce	07/26/10	07/01/13	1st		Mayor
6	F	Leslie Grow	07/26/10	07/01/13	1st		Mayor
6	F	Olivia Robinson	07/26/10	07/01/13	3rd		Mayor
	F	Vacant	07/26/10	07/01/13	1st		Mayor
6	F	Bridgette Maryman	03/6 /12	07/01/14	1st		Mayor
2	F	Jamila Johnson	07/26/10	07/01/14	2nd		Mayor
1	F	Johanna Gusman	03/6 /12	07/01/14	1st		Mayor
4	F	Roslyn Kagy	07/26/10	07/01/14	1st		Mayor
1	F	Seerat Virk	*09/01/11*	*09/11/13*	*Only*	*Get Engaged*	*Mayor*

	Men	Women	Vacant	Minority	(1) Asian/American	(2) African/American	(3) Latino	(4) Native/American	(5) Other	(6) Caucasian
Mayor	0	8	1	4	1	1	0	1	0	4
Council	0	8	1	3	1	1	1	1	0	5
Commission	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Get Engaged	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	
Total	**0**	**19**	**2**	**8**	**3**	**2**	**1**	**2**	**0**	**11**

*The Get Engaged youth program Commissioner serves a single term of one year.

**Commissioners whose first appointments are for a term of less than twelve months are eligible to serve for two additional two/year terms.