City of Seattle

Notice of Appointment

Name: **Owain James**		☐ **Executive Appointment** ☐ **Reappointment** ☒ **Legislative Appointment** ☐ **Agency Appointment** ☐ **PDA Council** ☐ **PDA Constituency**
Residential Neighborhood: Queen Anne	**Zip Code:** 98115	**Contact Phone No.:** 206-233-2656 (Sol)
Appointed to: Seattle Youth Commission		**Date of Appointment:** June 24th, 2013
Authority (Ord., Res.): CB 116791, SMC 3.67		**Term of Office** **From:** Confirmation **To:** May 31st, 2014
Background: **1st year, from Seattle Waldorf High School; senior next year.**		
Authorizing Signature:		**Name and Title of Officer Making Appointments:** Councilmember Sally Bagshaw

Owain James

High school: Seattle Waldorf Highschool
Grade next year: Senior
Gender: Male

Will you need any special arrangements to be able to participate in Youth Commission meetings?

Please list and describe any groups or organizations that you're currently involved with or that you plan to be involved with next year.
I am currently in Boy Scout Troop 166 but will be getting my Eagle and graduating out of the Troop when I turn 18 in July. I am also working part time at Reckless Video store.

1. Why do you want to become a member of the Seattle Youth Commission? I have a great interest in politics and government and would like to become more involved. Beyond just interest I believe that it is the job of every citizen of self governing nation to be informed and involved as much as possible in the democratic process. I am also considering further career opportunities within the realm of government and politics and this sounds like a great chance to not only make a difference in the local community, but to gain valuable experience and knowledge about how are government system works from a practical standpoint.

2. What issues are you passionate about in your community, and why? There are several issues that I care about in my community. I will detail them in no particular order. I care very much about education and the state of the education system in this country. In terms of importance education is huge. It determines the future of our country and how well we raise younger generations directly reflects on us. Education is doubly important in self government. Not only is it good for the individual, but for the society as a whole. Democracy requires a large body of informed, intelligent voters to function properly. Another local issue I care a lot about is public transportation. We, as a city, are doing very well in this regard but I think the chance to expand our bus and train system should always be taken. It makes no sense that so many people drive individual vehicles to the same place at the same time very day. This ties into another issue: pollution. I really like living in the city but there are things that I don't like about it. Though here in Seattle we are blessed to have near constant rain to keep smog away it does little or nothing to stop other types of pollution. Noise and light pollution are two that come to

mind. Both are not only annoying but are harmful to the environment and from someone who likes to star gaze, saddening.

3. What are your greatest strengths, and in what areas would you like to improve? I believe I have good analytical skills and the ability to judge issues from an objective standpoint. I try to approach issues and arguments with my viewpoint but keeping in mind that it is one of many and is quite possibly wrong. Whenever I see a story I try to find at least two different viewpoints and never believe something without good reason to do so. These practices and skills can make me seem overly clinical or make it seem like I am just being contrarian or that I don't hold consistent viewpoints. I am striving to make my viewpoints steady, but not unchanging. I'm also always trying to improve how to how defend them and how to look at them.

4. As a Youth Commissioner, you'll spend a lot of time working in groups. What's your most comfortable role in a group? I fall into different places in a group depending on the people who are in that group. At school I often assume a leadership position. In my class at school I am the one who is more inclined to lead then the others. I also often fall into an advisory or mediator role because I tend to be much more well read then a lot of my friends and more calm or rational about issues. I expect this will change as a youth commissioner since I would expect the majority of the people there to be more informed and interested in the political process then my normal peers. I always try to choose a role that will benefit the group the most and I am sure my moderation and advisory roles will be useful.

5. As mentioned above, being a Youth Commissioner requires a significant time commitment. Will you be able to attend meetings every Wednesday during the school year from 4-5:30 pm at City Hall (in downtown Seattle)? Yes

Explanation (optional):

Is there anything else you'd like to share?

How did you hear about the Youth Commission? My sister attends Nathan Hale High School and my parents were sent an email about it.

Seattle Youth Commission

June 2013

25 members: per CB 116791, SMC 3.67, all subject to City Council confirmation, 1-year terms

- 12 Appointed by City Council
- 13 Appointed by Mayor

D*	G	Name	Appointed	Term Ends	Term #	Position	Appointed By
C	M	Bryce Goldsen	6/24/13	5/31/14	2	East	Mayor
C	F	Cecilia Kalthoff	6/24/13	5/31/14	2	Ballard	Mayor
Af	F	Chaltu Hussein	6/24/13	5/31/14	2	Southeast	Mayor
C	F	Chloe Fasoldt	6/24/13	5/31/14	1	Ballard	Council
O	F	Claire Huebler	6/24/13	5/31/14	1	Northeast	Council
Af	F	Delannah Collins-Wright	6/24/13	5/31/14	2	Southeast	Mayor
H	F	Elaine LaFontaine	6/24/13	5/31/14	1	Northwest	Council
C	M	Greyson Zatzick	6/24/13	5/31/14	1	Central	Mayor
C	F	Hannah Trettenero	6/24/13	5/31/14	2	Northeast	Mayor
C	M	Henry Meyerson	6/24/13	5/31/14	1	Northeast	Mayor
C	F	Isabel Emery	6/24/13	5/31/14	1	Northeast	Mayor
As	F	Lena Tran	6/24/13	5/31/14	1	Greater Duwamish	Council
C	M	Liam Lawrence	6/24/13	5/31/14	1	Northeast	Council
H	F	Lizette Becerra	6/24/13	5/31/14	1	Northwest	Mayor
C	F	Madeline Walsh	6/24/13	5/31/14	1	Northeast	Mayor
Af	F	Marta Deneke	6/24/13	5/31/14	1	Lake Union	Mayor
C	F	Megan Warshaw	6/24/13	5/31/14	3	Delridge	Mayor
C	M	Owain James	6/24/13	5/31/14	1	Queen Anne	Council
C	M	Ryan Lenea	6/24/13	5/31/14	2	North	Mayor
Af	F	Sabrina Mohamed	6/24/13	5/31/14	1	Greater Duwamish	Council

C	M	Sam Orlin	6/24/13	5/31/14	1	Southwest	Council
C	F	Sarah Lober	6/24/13	5/31/14	1	Lake Union	Council
As	F	Seray Savrun	6/24/13	5/31/14	1	Northeast	Council
As	M	Vincent Tsan	6/24/13	5/31/14	1	Southeast	Council
C	M	Waylon Robert	6/24/13	5/31/14	1	Ballard	Council

*Diversity

	Men	Women	Vacant	Minority	(1) Asian-American	(2) African-American	(3) Hispanic Latin@	(4) Native-American	(5) Other**	(6) Caucasian
Mayor	4	9	0	4	0	3	1	0	0	9
Council	5	7	0	5	3	1	1	0	1	7
Total	*9*	*16*	*0*	*9*	*3*	*4*	*1*	*0*	*1*	*16*

***Other includes diversity in any of the following: race, gender and/or ability*