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CITY OF SEATTLE
RESOLUTION _____

A RESOLUTION submitting a proposition to the qualified electors of the City, at an election to be held on November 5, 2013, to amend a section in Article VI, amend a section in Article X, and add a section in Article XXII of the Charter of the City of Seattle to provide for the reappointment and reconfirmation of the Chief of Police and the Fire Chief every four years; directing the City Clerk to file this resolution with the Director of Elections of King County and requesting the Director to call a special election in conjunction with the November 5, 2013, general election for the purpose of submitting the proposition to City voters; and providing for the publication of the proposed amendments.

WHEREAS, the City Charter and the Seattle Municipal Code provide that the heads of the following City departments are appointed by the Mayor subject to confirmation by the City Council, and are subject to periodic reappointment and reconfirmation:

- Seattle City Light
- Seattle Public Utilities
- Seattle Department of Transportation
- Department of Parks and Recreation
- Seattle Center
- Department of Neighborhoods
- Department of Planning and Development
- Department of Finance and Administrative Services
- Human Services Department
- Department of Information Technology
- Personnel Department; and

WHEREAS, the only two department heads that are not currently subject to periodic reappointment and reconfirmation are the Chief of Police and the Fire Chief; and

WHEREAS, periodic reappointment and reconfirmation of department heads afford the City Council and the public an opportunity to review a department head's accomplishments, vision, goals, priorities, challenges, and decision-making approach; and

WHEREAS, periodic reappointment and reconfirmation provide an orderly system of public accountability for the City's department heads; NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:

1 Section 1. Subject to the approval of a proposition by a majority of the qualified electors
2 casting votes thereon, a section in Article VI and a section in Article X of the Charter of the City of
3 Seattle are amended, and a new section is added to Article XXII, as follows:
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6 **Article VI. Department of Police**

7 * * *

8 **Section 2. CHIEF OF POLICE; QUALIFICATIONS, APPOINTMENT,**
9 **REMOVAL; TO APPOINT SUBORDINATE OFFICERS:** The Chief of Police shall be
10 appointed by the Mayor, subject to confirmation by a majority vote of all members of the City
11 Council, and shall be subject to reappointment and reconfirmation every four years. He or she
12 shall be selected by the Mayor from among the three highest ranking candidates in a competitive
13 examination to be conducted under the direction of the Mayor. The Mayor may remove the Chief
14 of Police upon filing a statement of his or her reasons for so doing with the City Council. A
15 Chief of Police appointed from the classified civil service may take leave of absence from his or
16 her classified position until completion of his or her tenure as Chief of Police. All subordinate
17 police officers shall be appointed by the Chief of Police under civil service rules and regulations.

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20 **ARTICLE X. Fire Department**

21 * * *

22 **Section 2. APPOINTMENT OF FIRE CHIEF:** The Fire Chief shall be appointed by
23 the Mayor, such appointment to be effective only upon confirmation of the City Council passed
24 by a majority vote of all its members, and shall be subject to reappointment and reconfirmation
25 every four years. ~~T~~(~~h~~)he Fire Chief may be removed by the Mayor upon filing a statement of
26 the Mayor's reasons therefor with the City Council. The Fire Chief shall have at least ten years
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1 service in a fire department in a jurisdiction of not less than one hundred thousand population. In
2 case the Fire Chief be appointed from the civil service, he or she shall resume his or her former
3 position therein upon replacement and the subordinate appointees shall resume their former
4 positions respectively.

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7 **NEW SECTION:**

8 **ARTICLE XXII. Miscellaneous Subjects**

9 * * *

10 **Sec. 15. CERTAIN INCUMBENTS IN OFFICE:** An incumbent, if any, holding the
11 office of Chief of Police or Fire Chief on the effective date of the 2013 amendments to Article VI
12 and Article X shall first be subject to reappointment and reconfirmation on February 1, 2018.

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15 Section 2. The City Council directs that the City Clerk file this resolution with the
16 Director of Elections of King County, Washington, as ex officio supervisor of elections,
17 requesting that the Director of Elections call and conduct a special election in the City in
18 conjunction with the general election to be held on November 5, 2013, for the purpose of
19 submitting to the qualified electors of the City the proposition set forth in this resolution. The
20 City Clerk is directed to certify to the King County Director of Elections the ballot title approved
21 by the City Attorney in accordance with his responsibilities under RCW 29A.36.071.

22
23 Section 3. The City Clerk shall certify a copy of the proposed Charter amendments,
24 and the same shall be published by the City Clerk in accordance with state law prior to the
25 election at which the voters will vote on their approval or rejection.

