



Office of the Mayor
City of Seattle
Edward B. Murray, Mayor

Executive Order 2015-04: Directing the Creation of a New Executive Office to Coordinate Planning and Implementation to Build Thriving and Equitable Communities

This Executive Order calls for the establishment of a new executive Office of Planning and Community Development to facilitate stronger interdepartmental coordination in planning and implementation, and build thriving communities.

WHEREAS, it is a priority for the City of Seattle to build thriving communities with a mix of amenities, affordable housing, transportation, and economic development; and

WHEREAS, by 2035, the City of Seattle is expected to grow by 120,000 new residents and 115,000 new jobs; and

WHEREAS, growth in the City of Seattle has resulted in a wealthier tax base and a robust economy, but also higher rents, less affordable housing, greater traffic congestion and constraints on its resources; and

WHEREAS, some residents have expressed frustration with how growth has changed their neighborhood character, and are concerned that growth and development may lead to displacement; and

WHEREAS, our shared vision for the City of Seattle is a place where individuals who want to live, work, and raise a family, may do so in Seattle, regardless of race and income, where the diversity of residents comprised of artists, innovators, philanthropists, entrepreneurs, and families of all types are welcomed and valued, and where the City's unique landscape and amenities attract many people to live and work here; and

WHEREAS, the "Executive Order 2014-02: Race and Social Justice Initiative" affirmed the City of Seattle's commitment to the Race and Social Justice Initiative (RSJI), and expanded RSJI's work to include measurable outcomes, greater accountability, and community-wide efforts to achieve racial and social equity in our community; and

WHEREAS, the Equitable Development Initiative charges City departments with leveraging its collective resources to create communities of opportunity for everyone, regardless of race or means; and

WHEREAS, I noted in my 2014 *State of the City* address, that the City of Seattle must support safe and livable communities, nurture a vibrant economy, and provide for efficient, effective government; and

WHEREAS, I noted in my 2015 *State of the City* address, that “we will launch a different approach...[and] restructure City government to meet our rapidly changing city. As we provide plans for new density in a neighborhood, we will also provide plans for how the City will invest to ensure the neighborhood continues to thrive...[and that] growth must be about placing without displacing”; and

WHEREAS, through judicious strategic planning over the last 20 years, the collective work of planning staff across City departments successfully facilitated and realized the goal of channeling 75 percent of growth into Seattle’s Urban Villages and Centers; and

WHEREAS, the City of Seattle is fortunate to have a City workforce that is equipped and skilled with the knowledge, expertise and innovative spirit to address the needs and challenges of our city; and

WHEREAS, responsibility for the City’s vision for comprehensive planning and implementation at the neighborhood and city level is often unclear and distributed across multiple offices and departments; and

WHEREAS, the City of Seattle would benefit from a new executive planning office that will work with City departments to comprehensively and systematically address growth, prioritize and direct investments, and assess how existing policies and practices encourage or discourage equity and future development; and

WHEREAS, there is tremendous value in creating a stronger infrastructure for City departments to work together to identify creative solutions to leverage Seattle’s resources and strengthen interdepartmental collaboration to ensure a cohesive and focused approach to planning and development that will empower departments to address how the City may accommodate open space, housing, jobs, transportation, amenities, and economic opportunity when establishing and implementing community plans.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, EDWARD B. MURRAY, Mayor of Seattle, hereby order the Office of Policy and Innovation, the City Budget Office, Seattle Department of Human Resources, and Department of Planning and Development to develop the organizational structure for a new executive Office of Planning and Community Development that will accomplish the following objectives:

- Review neighborhood goals and plans, assess neighborhood needs, and identify opportunity areas and priorities for neighborhood development and

implementation by identifying capital investments, strategic partnerships, assets, and equity issues;

- Provide an integrated and equitable approach to the implementation of a community's vision for how their neighborhood will grow, which is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan;
- Create a new approach for promoting greater interdepartmental collaboration that aligns long-term planning with implementation strategies and capital investments;
- Identify strategies to align the Comprehensive Plan and Capital Improvement Program (CIP) that represent long-term, interdepartmental plans to ensure that current and future capital investments address community needs;
- Collaborate with the departments, Mayor, CBO, and Council to align resource needs and priorities; and
- Work with agency partners and the private sector to achieve the City's broader objectives for race and social equity.

All City offices and departments shall provide support as necessary to this effort. The development of the restructuring proposal shall be completed in time for the transmittal of legislation to City Council for consideration as part of their review of my 2016 Proposed Budget.

The restructuring proposal shall rely heavily on leveraging existing City staff resources, funding, and assets across City offices and departments.

Inquiries by City departments and offices regarding this Executive Order should be directed to Deputy Mayor Kate Joncas at (206) 684-4000.

Dated this 21st day of June, 2015



Edward B. Murray
Mayor, City of Seattle