

For Immediate Release
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***** MEDIA ADVISORY*****

[COALITION DEMANDS TRANSPARENCY IN SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL APPOINTMENT PROCESS]

Seattle, WA— Transparent Seattle has begun organizing in the wake of former Mayor Murray's resignation and the subsequent vacancy on the City Council left by newly appointed Mayor Tim Burgess. The coalition is comprised of Seattle residents and neighbors who are concerned with the lack of transparency in the selection process for the City Council position 8 appointee. Transparent Seattle sent representatives to City Hall this afternoon and urged the Seattle City Council to build time for constituents to weigh in on the selection process.

Transparent Seattle's main concern is the role the appointee will have on decisions concerning the city's proposed budget this fall. At this afternoon's city council meeting Danni Askini, Seattle resident and executive director of Gender Justice League urged "...the Council to have an open, democratic, and public process to choose the next councilmember." Transparent Seattle agrees with her concerns about the appointment process and recognizes the effect budgetary decisions will have on survivors of sexual assault and marginalized communities. **In light of our city going through two mayoral transitions in less than a week, our city deserves a thorough and inclusive city council selection process.**

The Seattle City Council is slated to review a budget proposed by Mayor Burgess on Monday, September 25th. **This despite no public access to the proposed budget being made available.** Transparent Seattle is advocating for an appointment process that facilitates civic engagement and increases accountability. **The primary demands are:**

- + A properly publicized appointment process that allows time for individuals to apply, as a rushed process closes opportunity for community response
- + A Transparent Seattle public forum hosted by the City, so Seattleites have the chance to meet and ask questions of potential appointees
- + An open council meeting with a public comment period after the forum, so Seattleites can voice - on record - their thoughts and concerns for appointees

We believe the 20 days permissible in the process is more than enough time to make the process open, transparent and truly inclusive. Our city deserves to know the individuals applying for this appointment. **Too much is on the line to rush our processes, especially when so many in our communities feel uncertain of our city's future.**

"An unelected individual being able to exert that much power over the future of Seattle must be subject to scrutiny from the populace," Transparent Seattle said, echoing the concerns of many in the community.

We deserve #TransparenSEA

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