Seattle City Council pauses for a moment at the start of each year to measure progress on the previous year’s priorities and set plans for the months ahead. Our 2014 priorities ran the gamut from ambitious and lofty to humble and pragmatic. We’re proud of the accomplishments you will find in this report.

Investing in Our Future

- Approved a landmark $15 per hour minimum wage in Seattle, putting Seattle at the forefront of the national fight to address income inequality.
- Developed the Seattle Preschool Program that was approved by voters, making voluntary, high-quality preschool affordable and available to thousands of Seattle’s 3- and 4-year-old children.
- Enhanced existing composting efforts by limiting organic food waste in commercial and residential trash.
- Urged state regulators to address safety concerns related to oil trains traveling through populated areas of Seattle.
- Banned City use of neonicotinoids, protecting pollinators and Seattle’s natural ecosystem.
- Oversaw the creation of a new City Department of Education and Early Learning.
- Initiated annexation of the South Park “Sliver by the River” to unite the residents in that area with their neighbors who already receive City services.

Managing a Strong City

- Adopted a balanced budget maintaining basic city services and enhancing funding in the areas of Public Safety, Housing and Human Services and Transportation.
- Adopted the Seattle Public Utilities Strategic Plan and the Seattle City Light Strategic Plan to ensure reliable, predictable utility service while investing in sustainable infrastructure.
- Launched a Digital Privacy Initiative to provide greater transparency into the City’s data collection processes.
- Closed a loophole to stop proliferation of unauthorized Wall Signs.
- Consolidated and improved the City’s labor laws through the creation of a new Office of Labor Standards.
- Hosted more than two dozen meetings with Councilmembers in Seattle neighborhoods, on issues ranging from minimum wage, gender pay equity, spending priorities and public safety.
- Streamlined complex payment systems for businesses by created a multi-city B&O tax portal.
Improving Mobility & Connections

- Preserved and expanded Metro bus service by putting forward a voter-approved measure, providing vital connections to neighborhoods throughout the city.
- Authorized and celebrated the launch of the Pronto! Bike Share program, allowing residents and tourists to move through the city with a new transportation option.
- Adopted the Bicycle Master Plan update that prioritizes safe bicycle facilities like Seattle neighborhood greenways and protected bicycle lanes.
- Reduced onerous regulations that limited the delivery of high-speed internet to Seattle neighborhoods.

Building Healthy, Great Places

- Crafted the Seattle Park District proposal that was adopted by voters, creating a sustainable funding path for Seattle's parks and recreational programs.
- Adopted development rules to preserve character buildings in the Pike/Pine neighborhood.
- Limited out-of-scale development on single family infill lots.
- Protected public health and safety in new legislation regulating microhousing as individual small efficiency dwelling units, closing the "aPodment" loopholes in the land use code.
- Reviewed workforce housing incentive programs and pursued a “linkage fee” to increase funding for affordable housing needs caused by heavy development.
- Joined other cities to create a regional affordable housing fund to leverage private investment near high frequency transit hubs.
- Created incentives to maintain and restore historic downtown performing arts theaters.
- Endorsed Seattle's bid to become a UNESCO City of Literature to formalize Seattle's commitment to the literary arts.
- Established the Seattle's Arts District program to support artists, art-spaces, and neighborhoods in maintaining and investing in their cultural assets.
Maintaining Safe & Just Communities

- Rolled out the **Gender Justice Project** to end the gender wage gap by working with the private sector and pursuing new policies at the City, including paid parental leave.

- Confirmed a new Chief of Police to lead reform of the Police Department, the first woman to be confirmed as Chief in Seattle’s history.

- Doubled the size of **Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs** to empower Seattle’s foreign born population and provide them with connections to City services.

- Lifted a restriction on the appointment of senior police commanders from outside the Seattle Police Department to encourage healthy competition for these positions.

- Reviewed the first City-funded study into the causes and effects of **gun violence**, and advocated for the state-wide gun background checks ballot measure that was approved by voters.