

## **Labor Relations**

The City has 33 separate departments and offices with approximately 13,000 regular and temporary employees. Thirty different unions and 45 bargaining units represent approximately 75 percent of the City's regular employees. The City's contract with the Seattle Police Officers Guild expired on December 31, 2002, and a tentative agreement is currently being voted on by Guild members. The results of the vote will be known in late December 2004. The contracts with all other City unions, other than the Seattle Police Management Association (whose contract expires December 31, 2005), expire between December 31, 2004, and January 31, 2005, and negotiations for successor agreements are underway.

## **INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM**

Under the State Constitution, Washington voters may initiate legislation (either directly to the voters, or to the Legislature and then, if not enacted, to the voters) and require the Legislature to refer legislation to the voters through the powers of initiative and referendum, respectively. Any law approved in this manner by a majority of the voters may not be amended or repealed by the Legislature within a period of two years following enactment, except by a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house of the Legislature. After two years, the law is subject to amendment or repeal by the Legislature in the same manner as other laws. The Washington State Constitution may not be amended by initiative.

Initiatives and referenda are submitted to the voters upon receipt of a petition signed by at least eight percent (initiative) and four percent (referenda) of the number of voters registered and voting for the office of Governor at the preceding regular gubernatorial election.

In recent years, several state-wide initiative petitions to repeal or reduce the growth of taxes and fees, including City taxes, have garnered sufficient signatures to reach the ballot. Some of those tax and fee initiative measures have been approved by the voters and, of those, some remain in effect while others have been invalidated by the courts. Tax and fee initiative measures continue to be filed, but it cannot be predicted whether any more such initiatives might gain sufficient signatures to qualify for submission to the Legislature and/or the voters or, if submitted, whether they ultimately would become law.

Under the City Charter, Seattle voters may initiate City Charter amendments and local legislation, including modifications to existing legislation, and through referendum may prevent legislation passed by the City Council from becoming law.

## **LEGAL AND TAX INFORMATION**

### **Bond Litigation**

There is no litigation pending with process properly served on the City questioning the validity of the Bonds or the power and authority of the City to issue the Bonds.

### **Effective Date of Bond Ordinance**

The Bond Ordinance was passed by the City Council and signed by the Mayor on November 22, 2004. Under the Seattle City Charter, an ordinance normally become effective 30 days after it has been signed by the Mayor (December 22, 2004, for the Bond Ordinance). The Bond Ordinance includes language ratifying actions prior to its effective date that are consistent with its terms, including the issuance of the Notice of Bond Sale, selection of an underwriter, and adoption of the Bond Resolution.

### **Approval of Counsel**

Legal matters incident to the authorization, issuance and sale of the Bonds by the City are subject to the approving legal opinion of Foster Pepper & Shefelman PLLC, Bond Counsel. A form of the opinion of such

firm with respect to the Bonds is attached hereto as Appendix B. Bond Counsel will be compensated only upon the issuance and sale of the Bonds.

### **Tax Exemption**

*Exclusion from Gross Income.* In the opinion of Bond Counsel, under existing federal law and assuming compliance with applicable requirements of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”), that must be satisfied subsequent to the issue date of the Bonds, interest on the Bonds is excluded from gross income for federal income tax purposes and is not an item of tax preference for purposes of the alternative minimum tax applicable to individuals.

*Continuing Requirements.* The City is required to comply with certain requirements of the Code after the date of issuance of the Bonds in order to maintain the exclusion of the interest on the Bonds from gross income for federal income tax purposes, including, without limitation, requirements concerning the qualified use of Note proceeds and the facilities financed or refinanced with Note proceeds, limitations on investing gross proceeds of the Bonds in higher yielding investments in certain circumstances, and the arbitrage rebate requirement to the extent applicable to the Bonds. The City has covenanted in the Bond Ordinance to comply with those requirements, but if the City fails to comply with those requirements, interest on the Bonds could become taxable retroactive to the date of issuance of the Bonds.

*Corporate Alternative Minimum Tax.* While interest on the Bonds also is not an item of tax preference for purposes of the alternative minimum tax applicable to corporations, under Section 55 of the Code, tax-exempt interest, including interest on the Bonds, received by corporations is taken into account in the computation of adjusted current earnings for purposes of the alternative minimum tax applicable to corporations (as defined for federal income tax purposes). Under the Code, alternative minimum taxable income of a corporation will be increased by 75 percent of the excess of the corporation’s adjusted current earnings (including any tax-exempt interest) over the corporation’s alternative minimum taxable income determined without regard to such increase. A corporation’s alternative minimum taxable income, so computed, that is in excess of an exemption of \$40,000, which exemption will be reduced (but not below zero) by 25 percent of the amount by which the corporation’s alternative minimum taxable income exceeds \$150,000, is then subject to a 20 percent minimum tax.

For taxable years beginning after December 31, 1997, the corporate alternative minimum tax is repealed for a small business corporation that had average gross receipts of less than \$5 million for the three-year period beginning after December 31, 1994, and such a small business corporation will continue to be exempt from the corporate alternative minimum tax so long as its average gross receipts do not exceed \$7.5 million.

*Tax on Certain Passive Investment Income of S Corporations.* Under Section 1375 of the Code, certain excess net passive investment income, including interest on the Bonds, received by an S corporation (a corporation treated as a partnership for most federal tax purposes) that has Subchapter C earnings and profits at the close of the taxable year may be subject to federal income taxation at the highest rate applicable to corporations if more than 25 percent of the gross receipts of such S corporation is passive investment income.

*Foreign Branch Profits Tax.* Interest on the Bonds may be subject to the foreign branch profits tax imposed by Section 884 of the Code when the Bonds are owned by, and effectively connected with a trade or business of, a United States branch of a foreign corporation.

### **Certain Other Federal Tax Consequences**

*Bonds Not “Qualified Tax-Exempt Obligations” for Financial Institutions.* Section 265 of the Code provides that 100 percent of any interest expense incurred by banks and other financial institutions for interest allocable to tax-exempt obligations acquired after August 7, 1986, will be disallowed as a tax deduction. However, if the tax-exempt obligations are obligations other than private activity bonds, are issued by a governmental unit that, together with all entities subordinate to it, does not reasonably anticipate issuing more than \$10,000,000 of tax-exempt obligations (other than private activity bonds and other obligations not required to be included in such calculation) in the current calendar year, and are designated by the governmental unit as “qualified

tax-exempt obligations,” only 20 percent of any interest expense deduction allocable to those obligations will be disallowed.

The City is a governmental unit that, together with all subordinate entities, reasonably anticipates issuing more than \$10,000,000 of tax-exempt obligations (other than private activity bonds and other obligations not required to be included in such calculation) during the current calendar year and has not designated the Bonds as “qualified tax-exempt obligations” for purposes of the 80 percent financial institution interest expense deduction. Therefore, no interest expense of a financial institution allocable to the Bonds is deductible for federal income tax purposes.

*Reduction of Loss Reserve Deductions for Property and Casualty Insurance Companies.* Under Section 832 of the Code, interest on the Bonds received by property and casualty insurance companies will reduce tax deductions for loss reserves otherwise available to such companies by an amount equal to 15 percent of tax-exempt interest received during the taxable year.

*Effect on Certain Social Security and Retirement Benefits.* Section 86 of the Code requires recipients of certain Social Security and certain Railroad Retirement benefits to take receipts or accruals of interest on the Bonds into account in determining gross income.

*Other Possible Federal Tax Consequences.* Receipt of interest on the Bonds may have other federal tax consequences as to which prospective purchasers of the Bonds may wish to consult their own tax advisors.

*Original Issue Premium.* The Bonds maturing on August 1 in the years 2005 through 2025, inclusive, have been sold at prices reflecting original issue premium (“Premium Bonds”). An amount equal to the excess of the purchase price of a Premium Bond over its stated redemption price at maturity constitutes premium on such Premium Bond. A purchaser of a Premium Bond must amortize any premium over such Premium Bond’s term using constant yield principles, based on the purchaser’s yield to maturity. The amount of amortizable premium allocable to an interest accrual period for a Premium Bond will offset a like amount of qualified stated interest on such Premium Bond allocable to that accrual period, and may affect the calculation of alternative minimum tax liability described above. As premium is amortized, the purchaser’s basis in such Premium Bond is reduced by a corresponding amount, resulting in an increase in the gain (or decrease in the loss) to be recognized for federal income tax purposes upon a sale or disposition of such Premium Bond prior to its maturity. Even though the purchaser’s basis is reduced, no federal income tax deduction is allowed. Purchasers of Premium Bonds, whether at the time of initial issuance or subsequent thereto, should consult with their own tax advisors with respect to the determination and treatment of premium for federal income tax purposes and with respect to state and local tax consequences of owning such Premium Bonds.

*Original Issue Discount.* The Term Bond maturing on August 1, 2029, has been sold at prices reflecting original issue discount (“Discount Bonds”). Under existing law, the original issue discount in the selling price of each Discount Bond, to the extent properly allocable to each owner of such Discount Bond, is excluded from gross income for federal income tax purposes with respect to such owner. The original issue discount is the excess of the stated redemption price at maturity of such Discount Bond over the initial offering price to the public, excluding underwriters and other intermediaries, at which price a substantial amount of the Discount Bonds of such maturity were sold.

Under Section 1288 of the Code, original issue discount on tax-exempt bonds accrues on a compound basis. The amount of original issue discount that accrues to an owner of a Discount Bond during any accrual period generally equals (i) the issue price of such Discount Bond plus the amount of original issue discount accrued in all prior accrual periods, multiplied by (ii) the yield to maturity of such Discount Bond (determined on the basis of compounding at the close of each accrual period and properly adjusted for the length of the accrual period), less (iii) any interest payable on such Discount Bond during such accrual period. The amount of original issue discount so accrued in a particular accrual period will be considered to be received ratably on each day of the accrual period, will be excluded from gross income for federal income tax purposes, and will increase the owner’s tax basis in such Discount Bond. Any gain realized by an owner from a sale, exchange,

payment, or redemption of a Discount Bond will be treated as gain from the sale or exchange of such Discount Bond.

The portion of original issue discount that accrues in each year to an owner of a Discount Bond may result in certain collateral federal income tax consequences. The accrual of such portion of the original issue discount will be included in the calculation of alternative minimum tax liability as described above, and may result in an alternative minimum tax liability even though the owner of such Discount Bond will not receive a corresponding cash payment until a later year.

Owners who purchase Discount Bonds in the initial public offering but at a price different from the first offering price at which a substantial amount of those Discount Bonds were sold to the public, or who do not purchase Discount Bonds in the initial public offering, should consult their own tax advisors with respect to the tax consequences of the ownership of such Discount Bonds. Owners of Discount Bonds who sell or otherwise dispose of such Discount Bonds prior to maturity should consult their own tax advisors with respect to the amount of original issue discount accrued over the period such Discount Bonds have been held and the amount of taxable gain or loss to be recognized upon that sale or other disposition of Discount Bonds. Owners of Discount Bonds also should consult their own tax advisors with respect to state and local tax consequences of owning such Discount Bonds.

### **Continuing Disclosure Undertaking**

*Undertaking to Provide Notice of Material Events.* To meet the requirements of United States Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”) Rule 15c2-12(b)(5) (the “Rule”), the City will undertake in the Bond Resolution (the “Undertaking”) for the benefit of holders of the Bonds, as follows.

*Annual Financial Information.* The City agrees to provide or cause to be provided to each nationally recognized municipal securities information repository designated by the SEC in accordance with the Rule (each “NRMSIR”) and to a state information depository, if one is established in the State of Washington and recognized by the SEC (the “SID”), annual financial information and operating data regarding the Light System of the type included in this Official Statement as generally described below (“annual financial information”):

- (i) annual financial statements of the Light System prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles applicable to governmental units (except as otherwise noted therein), as such principles may be changed from time to time and as permitted by State law; which financial statements will not be audited, except that if and when audited financial statements are otherwise prepared and available to the City they will be provided;
- (ii) a statement of authorized, issued and outstanding bonded debt secured by Gross Revenues of the Light System;
- (iii) debt service coverage ratios;
- (iv) sources of Light System power and the cost thereof;
- (v) general customer statistics, such as number and type of customer and power consumed, and revenues by customer class; and
- (vi) average revenue per kWh of sales for each customer class.

Annual financial information described above will be provided to each NRMSIR and the SID, not later than the last day of the ninth month after the end of each fiscal year of the City, as such fiscal year may be changed as required or permitted by State law, commencing with the City’s fiscal year ending December 31, 2004. The annual financial information may be provided in a single or multiple documents, and may be incorporated by reference from other documents, including official statements of debt issues with respect to which the City is an obligated person as defined by the Rule, which documents have been filed with each NRMSIR and the SID. If the document incorporated is a “final official statement” (as defined by the Rule) with respect to which the City is an obligated person, it must be available from the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board (“MSRB”).

The City also will provide or cause to be provided to each NRMSIR or the MSRB, and to the SID, timely notice of a failure by the City to provide the required annual financial information on or before the date specified above.

At its option, the City may make any filing under this Undertaking solely by transmitting such filing to the Texas Municipal Advisory Council (the "MAC"), as provided at <http://www.disclosureusa.org>, unless the SEC has withdrawn the interpretive advice in its letter to the MAC dated September 7, 2004.

*Material Events.* The City further will provide or cause to be provided to each NRMSIR or the MSRB and the SID, timely notice of the occurrence of any of the following events with respect to the Bonds, if material:

- (i) principal and interest payment delinquencies;
- (ii) non-payment related defaults;
- (iii) unscheduled draws on debt service reserves reflecting financial difficulties;
- (iv) unscheduled draws on credit enhancements reflecting financial difficulties;
- (v) substitution of credit or liquidity providers, or their failure to perform;
- (vi) adverse tax opinions or events affecting the tax-exempt status of the Bonds;
- (vii) modifications to the rights of the holders of the Bonds;
- (viii) Bond calls (other than scheduled mandatory redemption of Term Bonds);
- (ix) defeasances;
- (x) release, substitution, or sale of property securing repayment of the Bonds; and
- (xi) rating changes.

For purposes of this section, "Continuing Disclosure Undertaking," the term "holders of the Bonds" shall have the meaning intended for such term under the Rule.

*Amendment of Undertaking.* The Undertaking is subject to amendment without the consent of any holder of any Bond, or any broker, dealer, municipal securities dealer, participating underwriter, rating agency, NRMSIR, the SID or the MSRB, under the circumstances and in the manner permitted by the Rule.

The City will give notice to each NRMSIR or the MSRB, and the SID, of the substance (or provide a copy) of any amendment to the Undertaking and a brief statement of the reasons for the amendment. If the amendment changes the type of annual financial information to be provided, the annual financial information containing the amended information will include a narrative explanation of the effect of that change on the type of information to be provided.

*Termination of Undertaking.* The City's obligations to provide annual financial information and notices of certain events will terminate upon the legal defeasance, prior redemption or payment in full of all of the then outstanding Bonds. In addition, the Undertaking, or any provision thereof, will be null and void if the City (i) obtains an opinion of nationally recognized bond counsel or other counsel familiar with the federal securities laws to the effect that those portions of the Rule which require the Undertaking, or any such provision, are invalid, have been repealed retroactively or otherwise do not apply to the Bonds; and (ii) notifies the SID and either the MSRB or each then existing NRMSIR of such termination.

*Remedy for Failure to Comply with Undertaking.* If the City fails to comply with the Undertaking, the City will proceed with due diligence to cause such noncompliance to be corrected as soon as practicable after the City learns of that failure.

No failure by the City or other obligated person to comply with the Undertaking will constitute a default in respect of the Bonds. The sole remedy of any holder of a Bond will be to take such actions as that holder

deems necessary and appropriate to compel the City or other obligated person to comply with the Undertaking. The Undertaking will inure to the benefit of the City and any holder of the Bonds, and will not inure to the benefit of or create any rights in any other person.

*Other Continuing Disclosure Undertakings of the City.* The City has entered into undertakings to provide annual information and the notice of the occurrence of certain events with respect to all bonds issued by the City on and after July 3, 1995, subject to the Rule. The City is in compliance with all such undertakings.

## OTHER BOND INFORMATION

### Bond Insurance

*The following information has been furnished by Financial Security Assurance Inc. (“Financial Security”) for use in this Official Statement. Reference is made to Appendix F for a specimen of Financial Security’s policy.*

*Bond Insurance Policy.* Concurrently with the issuance of the Bonds, Financial Security will issue its Municipal Bond Insurance Policy for the Bonds (the “Policy”). The Policy guarantees the scheduled payment of principal of and interest on the Bonds when due as set forth in the form of the Policy included as Appendix F to this Official Statement.

The Policy is not covered by any insurance security or guaranty fund established under New York, California, Connecticut or Florida insurance law.

*Financial Security Assurance Inc.* Financial Security is a New York-domiciled financial guaranty insurance company and a wholly owned subsidiary of Financial Security Assurance Holdings Ltd. (“Holdings”). Holdings is an indirect subsidiary of Dexia, S.A., a publicly held Belgian corporation, and of Dexia Credit Local, a direct wholly-owned subsidiary of Dexia, S.A. Dexia, S.A., through its bank subsidiaries, is primarily engaged in the business of public finance, banking and asset management in France, Belgium and other European countries. No shareholder of Holdings or Financial Security is liable for the obligations of Financial Security.

At September 30, 2004, Financial Security’s total policyholders’ surplus and contingency reserves were approximately \$2,255,933,000 and its total unearned premium reserve was approximately \$1,561,771,000 in accordance with statutory accounting practices. At September 30, 2004, Financial Security’s total shareholder’s equity was approximately \$2,612,989,000 and its total net unearned premium reserve was approximately \$1,286,985,000 in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

The financial statements included as exhibits to the annual and quarterly reports filed by Holdings with the Securities and Exchange Commission are hereby incorporated herein by reference. Also incorporated herein by reference are any such financial statements so filed from the date of this Official Statement until the termination of the offering of the Bonds. Copies of materials incorporated by reference will be provided upon request to Financial Security Assurance Inc.: 350 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10022, Attention: Communications Department (telephone (212) 826-0100).

The Policy does not protect investors against changes in market value of the Bonds, which market value may be impaired as a result of changes in prevailing interest rates, changes in applicable ratings or other causes. Financial Security makes no representation regarding the Bonds or the advisability of investing in the Bonds. Financial Security makes no representation regarding the Official Statement, nor has it participated in the preparation thereof, except that Financial Security has provided to the City the information presented under this caption for inclusion in the Official Statement.