



# City of Seattle

Mayor Edward B. Murray

The Honorable M. Lorena González  
Seattle City Council  
600 Fourth Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

July 21, 2017

Dear Councilmember González:

I read with interest the concerns you expressed on Monday regarding the Executive branch and our ability to put the priorities of the people of Seattle first while ensuring an effective transition of leadership to the next Mayor of our incredible city. I want to assure you that we share these goals and my administration remains committed to the strong and collaborative relationship we have built with you and your colleagues on the Council. I agree with your statement that we have achieved great results together and I too am grateful for your service as my former legal counsel and as a City Councilmember.

My department heads and senior management is absolutely focused on the remaining five months of my term in office. We look forward to advancing Housing Affordability and Livability Agenda (HALA) legislation; continuing our progress on police reform; crafting a Memorandum of Understanding for your review related to Key Arena; implementing key elements of Pathways Home and our homelessness strategy and most importantly, delivering to the Council a balanced budget proposal for 2018 that reflects our values and priorities for your consideration. But I also agree with you that a focused and coordinated effort for a transition in Executive leadership is of utmost importance. As a student of history and long-time observer of City Hall prior to becoming mayor, I fully appreciate the nuances and necessity of continuity of government and have seen good and bad transitions that can have lasting impacts.

Given our shared interests and your recommendations, I would like to propose something innovative: a joint Mayor-Council transition coordination committee to execute a plan for ensuring a smooth transition of power to the next Mayor and newly seated City Council. You and I both believe that it is critical for the Executive and Legislative branches of government to have a strong working relationship in order to best serve the people of Seattle. In my opinion, this is all the more important that a leadership transition following an election should be carried out in a collaborative manner. Should the Council agree, I am assigning my Chief of Staff Mike Fong and Director of Operations Fred Podesta to work with Council President Harrell on a framework for a joint transition committee. This approach will allow for the next Mayor and City Council to be fully informed and up to speed on policies, procedures and operations to hit the ground running on January 1, 2018.

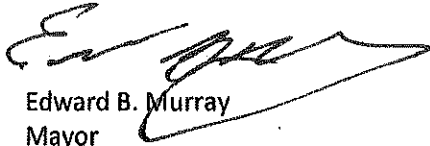
I want to thank you for voicing your perspective. I understand that with the allegations against me come questions about putting the City's interests first. I believe my decision to not run for re-election and commitment to the least disruptive approach to ensuring a transition of leadership demonstrates that we are both committed to what is best for our city.



# City of Seattle

Mayor Edward B. Murray

Sincerely,



Edward B. Murray  
Mayor

Cc: Council President Bruce Harrell  
Councilmember Lisa Herbold  
Councilmember Kshama Sawant  
Councilmember Rob Johnson  
Councilmember Debora Juarez  
Councilmember Mike O'Brien  
Councilmember Sally Bagshaw  
Councilmember Tim Burgess