



Seattle Tax Advisory Group

Date: Tuesday, June 4, 2024
10:00 am

Location: Microsoft Teams

Attendees:

Joseph Cunha, Tax Administrator, City of Seattle

Mark Watterson, Tax Audit Manager, City of Seattle

Kevin Guichon, Tax Policy Analyst, City of Seattle

Brian Aragon, Tax Manager, State and Local Tax, Amazon

Marsha McLean, State & Local Tax Compliance Manager, Weyerhaeuser

Sharon Wismeth Johnson, Director, Global Indirect Tax, Starbucks

Eric Ng, Senior Tax Manager, Global Indirect Tax, Starbucks

Stephanie Gilfeather, Director U.S. Indirect Tax, Inc., Expedia

Minutes:

1. Welcome / Introductions

-n/a-

2. Seattle Payroll Expense Tax Training

Mark Watterson—The city plans to continue the quarterly Seattle Payroll Expense Tax training for the foreseeable future. The city continues to see a good attendance at the trainings.

3. Seattle Director's Rules Technical Review

Mark Watterson—In 2024, the city is undertaking a technical review of the Seattle Director's Rules.

Joseph Cunha – The city began promulgating Director's Rules in the early 2000s. The city is updating the rules now. The city welcomes questions or input from all stakeholders as we continue to complete the rules review.

4. Other Misc

A. I-137 excess compensation payroll expense tax to fund the Social Housing Developer

Joseph Cunha – The city continues to monitor the signature gathering activities conducted in support of the social housing initiative. We do not yet know whether

House Our Neighbors! will be able to collect a sufficient number of valid signatures in time for I-137 to appear on the November 2024 ballot. We may know more in July.

Marsha McLean – Will the city put the I-137 tax on the same form as the Payroll Expense Tax?

Joseph Cunha – The city has not made any determinations around the administration of a potential new tax resulting from I-137. The city will continue to monitor the progress of I-137 as the initiative process continues.

B. Misc. Payroll Expense Tax

Marsha McLean – Marsha asked whether the city has data showing a specific break out of the revenue collected from the Payroll Expense Tax.

Joseph Cunha – He has not seen a specific breakdown by category of revenue collected from the Payroll Expense Tax. The initiative writers may have requested data from the city's Economic Forecast Team, to help them forecast the revenue raised from the excess compensation payroll expense tax at approximately \$50 million.