

Office of Hearing Examiner

Sue Tanner, Hearing Examiner

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<http://www.seattle.gov/examiner/>

Department Overview

The Office of Hearing Examiner is Seattle's quasi-judicial forum for reviewing factual and legal issues raised by the application of City Code requirements to specific people or property. As authorized by the Seattle Municipal Code, the Office conducts hearings and decides appeals in cases where citizens disagree with a decision made by a City agency. Many of the matters appealed to the Hearing Examiner relate to land use and environmental permit decisions and interpretations made by the Department of Planning and Development. The Hearing Examiner also hears appeals in many other subject areas and makes recommendations to the City Council on rezone petitions, major institution master plans, and other Council land-use actions. Pursuant to authority granted in 2004, the Hearing Examiner also provides contract hearing examiner services to other local governments.

The Hearing Examiner and Deputy Hearing Examiners, appointed by the Hearing Examiner, handle all pre-hearing matters, regulate the conduct of hearings, and prepare decisions and recommendations based upon the hearing record and applicable law. The Code requires all examiners to be attorneys with training and experience in administrative hearings. The Hearing Examiner also appoints an executive assistant to oversee the administrative areas of the office, a legal assistant to assist with hearings and decision preparation, and an administrative specialist to support all other office positions and provide information to the public.

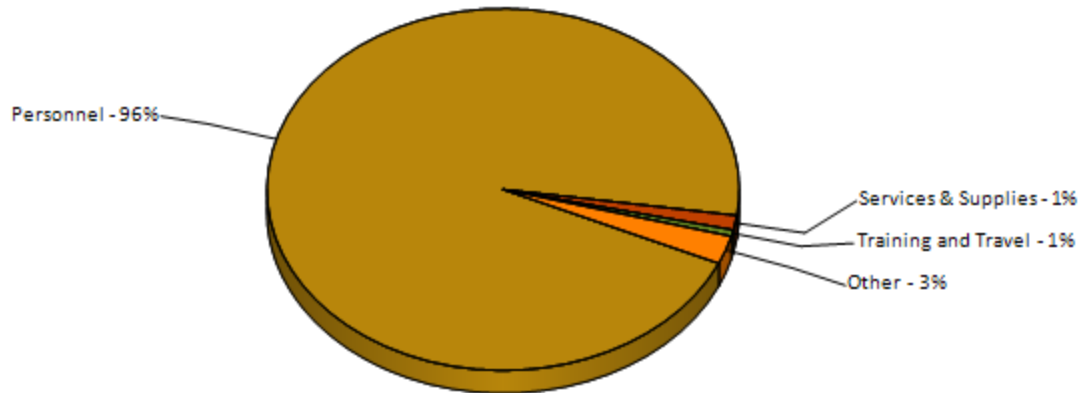
Budget Snapshot

Department Support	2012 Actuals	2013 Adopted	2014 Endorsed	2014 Proposed
General Fund Support	\$587,658	\$635,100	\$656,328	\$648,247
Total Operations	\$587,658	\$635,100	\$656,328	\$648,247
Total Appropriations	\$587,658	\$635,100	\$656,328	\$648,247
Full-time Equivalent Total*	4.63	4.63	4.63	4.63

* FTE totals are provided for information purposes only. Changes in FTEs resulting from City Council or Personnel Director actions outside of the budget process may not be detailed here.

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2014 Proposed Budget - Expenditure by Category



Budget Overview

The 2014 Proposed Budget makes minor technical changes to the 2014 Endorsed Budget.

Incremental Budget Changes

Office of Hearing Examiner

	2014 Budget	FTE
Total 2014 Endorsed Budget	\$ 656,328	4.63
Proposed Technical Changes		
Eliminate Funding for Postini Spam Software	-\$ 69	0.00
Citywide Adjustments for Standard Cost Changes	-\$ 8,012	0.00
Total Incremental Changes	-\$ 8,081	0.00
2014 Proposed Budget	\$ 648,247	4.63

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Descriptions of Incremental Budget Changes

Proposed Technical Changes

Eliminate Funding for Postini Spam Software - (\$69)

The City has adopted Microsoft Office 365 as its new software platform, and as a result City departments no longer need to purchase separate anti-spam software.

Citywide Adjustments for Standard Cost Changes - (\$8,012)

Citywide technical adjustments reflect changes due to inflation, central cost allocations, retirement, healthcare, workers' compensation, and unemployment costs. These adjustments typically reflect updates to preliminary cost assumptions established in the 2014 Endorsed Budget.

Expenditure Overview

Appropriations	Summit Code	2012 Actuals	2013 Adopted	2014 Endorsed	2014 Proposed
Office of Hearing Examiner Budget Control Level	V1X00	587,658	635,100	656,328	648,247
Department Total		587,658	635,100	656,328	648,247
Department Full-time Equivalents Total*		4.63	4.63	4.63	4.63

** FTE totals are provided for information purposes only. Changes in FTEs resulting from City Council or Personnel Director actions outside of the budget process may not be detailed here.*

Appropriations By Budget Control Level (BCL) and Program

Office of Hearing Examiner Budget Control Level

The purpose of the Office of Hearing Examiner Budget Control Level is to conduct fair and impartial hearings in all subject areas where the Seattle Municipal Code grants authority to do so (there are currently more than 75 subject areas) and to issue decisions and recommendations consistent with applicable law.

Program Expenditures	2012 Actuals	2013 Adopted	2014 Endorsed	2014 Proposed
Office of Hearing Examiner	587,658	635,100	656,328	648,247
Total	587,658	635,100	656,328	648,247
Full-time Equivalents Total*	4.63	4.63	4.63	4.63

** FTE totals are provided for information purposes only. Changes in FTEs resulting from City Council or Personnel Director actions outside of the budget process may not be detailed here.*