
Jenny A. Durkan, Mayor
Mariko Lockhart, Director

Dear friend,

I am pleased to share Mayor Durkan's 2020 Proposed Budget, which was released earlier today. In the second year of the two-year budget biennium, this budget maintains core services while at the same time increasing investments in priorities like public safety, affordable housing, homelessness, transit and transportation safety, and opportunity and jobs for Seattle's young people.

It also creates new opportunities for the Seattle Office for Civil Rights, which will help us work toward our mission to end structural racism and discrimination through accountable community relationships and anti-racist organizing, policy development and civil rights enforcement.

In 2018, Mayor Durkan affirmed her commitment to ending harassment and discrimination within the City of Seattle through Executive Order (EO) 2018-04 on Anti-Harassment and Anti-Discrimination. This EO directed SOCR and the Seattle Department of Human Resources to carry out a number of actions to address workplace harassment and discrimination, including policy changes, the development of Citywide Workplace Expectations, and new training for all City staff. As a testament to her commitment, Mayor Durkan's proposed budget includes one additional full-time position for our Race and Social Justice Initiative (RSJI) Team, which will focus primarily on training.

The proposed budget also exemplifies the importance of the City's volunteer boards and commissions, by adding a second full-time liaison to our office. We will now have adequate staffing to provide our four commissions, including the Seattle LGBTQ Commission, the Seattle Commission for People with disAbilities, the Seattle Human Rights Commission, and the Seattle Women's Commission, the support and guidance they deserve.

Over the next two months, the City Council will review the Mayor's the proposed budget. Final adoption of the budget is expected on Monday, November 25. More information about details in the budget can be found at www.seattle.gov/budget, and you can also direct any questions to jenny.durkan@seattle.gov.

Thank you for your partnership and support,

Mariko Lockhart
Director, Seattle Office for Civil Rights