



# City of Seattle

## Office of Hearing Examiner

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February 15, 2022

Seattle Public and Other Users of the  
Seattle Office of Hearing Examiner System

RE: Seattle Office of Hearing Examiner Rules of Practice and Procedure Amendments

Dear Users:

The Seattle Office of Hearing Examiner (“Office”) is undertaking a significant re-write of the Hearing Examiner Rules of Practice and Procedure (“HERs”) that govern hearings conducted by our Office. The proposed amendments are sweeping in scope, and if adopted will result in changes throughout the HERs. We would very much appreciate hearing your comments on the proposed amendments, and any additional suggestions you may have for amendment.

### **I. Substantive Amendments**

In addition to editorial and formatting amendments, the proposed changes will include substantive amendments such as:

- a. Expanded Pre-hearing Motion Rules
- b. Mediation Procedural Rules
- c. Remote Hearing Conduct
- d. Filing Requirements that Eliminate Fax Machine Use
- e. Provisions for Email Service
- f. Codification of Exhibit, and Briefing Practices

### **II. Public Comment Process**

The Office will be conducting a multi-step public engagement process to invite your comments. Elements of this process will include early distribution of draft HERs to all listserv users and posting on our website in February 2022. In addition, open public meetings, some with various user group emphasis, will be scheduled in April 2022. Following a review period, the draft HERs will be re-drafted based on comments received during initial public meetings and the comment period, with a final public meeting to be held in June 2022 prior to adoption of the amendments.

Ryan P. Vancil  
Hearing Examiner