



## City of Edmonds Media Release

Office of the Mayor ~ 121 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue North, Edmonds

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**To:** Media

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### **Mayor Announces Mary Ann Hardie Is City's New Human Resources Director**

***Increased Staffing and Regulatory Demands Lead City To Reinstate Position After 5 Year Vacancy***

**(Edmonds, WA)** – After nearly five years without the dedicated position of a Human Resources Director, Mayor Dave Earling announced today he has chosen Mary Ann Hardie to fill the position. The announcement follows a months-long process to fill the position after the Edmonds City Council agreed with Mayor Earling it was time to bring the position back.

“Having served the City in Human Resources capacities for over twelve years, Ms. Hardie has a critical combination of knowledge, education and experience necessary for this position,” stated Edmonds Mayor Dave Earling regarding his selection.

After posting the position this summer, and interviews with City staff and the Mayor, the field was narrowed to two candidates this month, whom Edmonds City Council Members interviewed this week before the Mayor made his final selection. City Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Director Carrie Hite had been serving as the HR Reporting Director since September 2011.

“We’re very pleased to have such a talented, qualified candidate as Mary Ann to fill this critical position for our city,” added Mayor Earling. “While Ms. Hite has done an outstanding job

managing both departments, the scope of work for the Human Resources Department has grown considerably and the department now needs a dedicated Director to address those demands.”

Since eliminating the HR Director position in 2011, the City has seen an increase in staffing levels, additional state and federal regulations, additional HR programs implemented (safety, wellness, light duty program, stay at work program, ergonomic assessments), organizational training and development needs, labor relations, and considerable work completed on health benefits for employees. Given the new regulations of the Affordable Care Act, the Human Resources Department will be reconvening a Health Benefits Committee to tackle these new regulations to ensure compliance and adequate benefits for employees.

Ms. Hardie’s appointment to the position of Human Resources Director is scheduled to be confirmed by the City Council at next week’s Council meeting, Tuesday, September 27th.

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