



# City of Edmonds Media Release

Human Resources ~ 121 5<sup>th</sup> Ave N, Edmonds WA 98020

***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 6, 2019***

To: Media

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## **MAYOR APPOINTS JESSICA NEILL HOYSON AS THE CITY'S NEW HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR**

**MS. NEILL HOYSON SCHEDULED TO START AUG 26<sup>TH</sup>**

**(Edmonds - WA)** Mayor Dave Earling has appointed Jessica Neill Hoyson to fill the vacant Human Resources Director position at the City of Edmonds. City Council confirmed Jessica Neill Hoyson's appointment at the Monday, August 5, 2019 Council meeting.

The City opened the HR Director recruitment on May 23, 2019 shortly after the prior HR Director, Mary Ann Hardie, provided her resignation notice. Mary Ann Hardie had served the City for fourteen years and was in the Director role since Council brought it back in September of 2016.

Of the 44 applications that were received by the June 16<sup>th</sup> review date, 24 passed initial screenings and were reviewed by staff and 5 were selected for interviews. The interview process involved three rotating panels that included a Director Panel, a Management Panel and Staff/Union Panel. The Mayor also interviewed the top two highly qualified candidates recommended by staff. After debriefing with staff, the Mayor brought both candidates forward to interview with Council at the July 9, 2019 meeting. At this meeting, Council also waived the requirement for a third candidate based on staff recommendations. Human Resources staff then completed reference checks, a



background investigation that included: 7-year state and federal criminal history, educational verification, credit check and a driver's abstract review.

The Mayor is very excited to have Jessica Neill Hoyson join the City of Edmonds. He said, "We are delighted to have Jessica on our staff as a Director. Her high quality work at Skagit County and her other places of employment has been exemplary."

Jessica Neill Hoyson comes from Skagit County where she has been serving as the Director of Human Resources and Risk Management. She brings with her valuable experience in labor relations and negotiations, change management, and extensive knowledge of various human resources processes, procedures and compliance issues. Ms. Neill Hoyson is passionate about employee engagement and was responsible for developing and overseeing all employee performance management programs at Skagit County. In May of 1999 Ms. Neill Hoyson received her Bachelors in Communication and Marketing from Mercyhurst University in Pennsylvania. Ms. Neill Hoyson also successfully obtained her Human Resources Management Certification from the University of Washington in 2006. She has her Senior Professional in Human Resources certification from the Human Resources Certification Institute (HRCI) and is a Certified Labor Relations Professional through the National Public Employer's Labor Relations Association (NPLRA).

Jessica Neill Hoyson will start with the City of Edmonds on Monday, August 26, 2019. Until then she will be wrapping things up with Skagit County and relocating her family to a residence closer to Edmonds.

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