FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 9, 2020

To: Media
Contact: Patrick Doherty, Economic Development and Community Services Director
Patrick.doherty@edmondswa.gov

EDMONDS MAYOR NELSON SEEKS APPLICANTS FOR EQUITY AND JUSTICE ADVISORY TASK FORCE

Racial diversity and geographic diversity are highly valued

(Edmonds, WA) - Last week, Edmonds Mayor Mike Nelson shared his intention to create an Equity and Justice Task Force to help identify and correct systemic and implicit bias, and barriers to inclusion and equity within city operations. The desired outcome would be a set of recommended policies and procedures for the Police Department and City Hall that would address bias and inequities perpetrated on African-American residents, people of color and other minorities within our community.

Today, Mayor Nelson released more details about what the Task Force will look like and encouraged participation.

“I am asking for community involvement. I am asking people with experience, knowledge and understanding to walk with me and advise me as we move in the right direction together,” said Mayor Nelson.

Mayor Nelson has been reaching out to community leaders and now has a Task Force framework.

It will be an 11-member body, comprised of three at-large members and a combination of civic and business community members as well as representatives from regional equity and inclusion organizations.

Specifically, Mayor Nelson is seeking applicants for the three at-large positions with the following types of experience or characteristics:

- Experience within and/or representation of communities of color
- Representing the geographic diversity of Edmonds
• With a desire to help create meaningful change in our community
• Experience in city government or public institutions
• Residents of Edmonds

Those interested may apply by sending a letter to the Mayor’s Executive Assistant Carolyn LaFave at Carolyn.lafave@edmondswa.gov by Friday, June 19 at 5 pm.

The Mayor will also invite one Edmonds Diversity Commissioner, one City Councilmember, and one Disability Board member.

This is not an open-ended Task Force. It will have a scope of work and a timeframe associated with that work, as determined by the Task Force. City or contracted staff will support this Task Force.

###