



King County
Metropolitan King County Council
Committee of the Whole

STAFF REPORT

Agenda Item No.:	6	Date:	5 November 2012
Proposed No.:	2012-0306	Prepared by:	Nick Wagner
Invited:	None (consent agenda)		

SUMMARY

Proposed Motion 2012-0306 (pp. 3-4 of these materials¹) would confirm the appointment of Garmon Newsom to the King County Board of Ethics.

THE KING COUNTY BOARD OF ETHICS

The King County Board of Ethics was created by Ordinance 1321 in 1972 “to insure proper implementation of the code of ethics and to investigate and report on conflicts of interest.” The board consists of five members: two to be appointed by the county executive, two to be appointed by the county executive from a list of nominees submitted by the county council, and a fifth member, who serves as chair and is appointed by the county executive from a list of nominees submitted by the other four members. Each member serves a term of three years. All appointments to the board are subject to confirmation by the Council.

GARMON NEWSOM

Proposed Motion 2012-0306 would confirm the Executive’s appointment of Garmon Newsom, effective 1 August 2012, to serve on the Board of Ethics for a three-year term expiring on 31 July 2015.

Mr. Newsom, who resides in Council District 6, has served since May of 2005 as Assistant City Attorney for the City of Renton, where his responsibilities have included civil and criminal litigation, advising city officials on law and procedure, reviewing contracts, and drafting ordinances, among other things. His experience also includes service as Executive Agency Counsel with the New York City Transit Authority, Assistant District Attorney in Bronx County, New York, and Assistant District Attorney with the New York City Special Narcotics Prosecutor.

Mr. Newsom received his B.A. degree in Political Science from Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia, and his law degree from the George Washington University Law School in Washington, D.C.

¹ All page references are to the page numbers of this staff report and its attachments.

Mr. Newsom's resume is attached to this staff report. His Statement of Financial and Other Interests is on file with the King County Board of Ethics.

ATTACHMENTS

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1. Proposed Motion 2012-0306	3
2. Mr. Newsom's resume	7
3. Transmittal letter	9



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

November 2, 2012

Motion

Proposed No. 2012-0306.1

Sponsors Hague

1 A MOTION confirming the executive's appointment of
2 Garmon Newsom, who resides in council district six, to the
3 King County board of ethics effective August 1, 2012.

4 BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:

5 The county executive's appointment of Garmon Newsom, who resides in council
6 district six, to the King County board of ethics, effective August 1, 2012, for a three-year

7 term to expire on July 31, 2015, is hereby confirmed.

8

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Larry Gossett, Chair

ATTEST:

Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this _____ day of _____, _____.

Dow Constantine, County Executive

Attachments: A. Application, B. Financial Disclosure Statement, C. Board Profile, D. Appointment Letter

Application
Financial Disclosure Statement
Board Profile
Appointment Letter

Available in the Clerk's office.

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2012-306

GARMON NEWSOM II5001 127TH PLACE SE, BELLEVUE, WA 98006 • (425) 746-8436 • GN2MAIL@GMAIL.COM**EXPERIENCE****CITY OF RENTON, CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**

RENTON, WASHINGTON

ASSISTANT CITY ATTORNEY

MAY 2005 – PRESENT

- Successfully litigate land use, environmental, and zoning matters; write ordinances, advise city officials as to law and procedure, participate in the Safety Committee, and review contracts.
- As Chief Prosecutor, supervised prosecution attorneys and support staff, and all aspects of the criminal process, handled appeals that reached the U.S. Supreme Court and Washington State Supreme Court, won almost every jury trial including a number of domestic violence cases, devised and implemented plea and prosecution policies, fixed and reorganized the city's discovery process, tried civil forfeiture and abatement matters, and advised police and code compliance officers.

CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK, LEHMAN COLLEGE

BRONX, NEW YORK

ADJUNCT PROFESSOR, ECONOMICS & ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT

SEPTEMBER 2003 – MAY 2005

- Taught principles of Criminal Law, Negligence, Contracts, Corporations, Bankruptcy, Agency & Partnership, Labor Law and Employment Law in business law courses.

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT/GENERAL COUNSEL, MTA/NEW YORK CITY TRANSIT AUTHORITY

BROOKLYN, NEW YORK

EXECUTIVE AGENCY COUNSEL- MANHATTAN TRIAL UNIT

APRIL 1999 – MAY 2005

- Litigated personal injury, motor vehicle and premises liability cases.
- Started more than 50 trials and took more than 15 jury verdicts from February 2000 to May 2005.
- Evaluated and determined the financial reserves for claims against the self-insured NYCTA.
- Researched, wrote and successfully argued summary judgment motions and motions to dismiss, such as the *Kendra Webdale* wrongful death matter and the *Subway Fire Bombing* press cases.
- Cross-examined experts concerning escalator, station, subway car and stairway design and subway and bus maintenance, medical treatments, engineering issues including *co-efficient of friction*, and financial issues including future and past lost earnings.

OFFICE OF THE BRONX COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

BRONX, NEW YORK

ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

AUGUST 1992 – MARCH 1997 & JULY 1998 – APRIL 1999

- Litigated felony cases, including class "A-I" felonies from grand jury proceedings to jury verdicts.
- Prosecuted attempted homicides, robberies, assaults, burglaries and second-chaired homicide cases.
- Supervised junior ADAs during felony trials, hearings and grand jury proceedings.
- Examined ballistics experts, arson experts, chemists, appraisers and chief medical examiners.

OFFICE OF THE NEW YORK CITY SPECIAL NARCOTICS PROSECUTOR

NEW YORK, NEW YORK

ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

MARCH 1997 – JULY 1998

- Was appointed Special Assistant Prosecutor to prosecute narcotics cases including "A-I" felonies.
- Researched case-law, wrote motions and memoranda of law and utilized confidential informants.

BAR ADMISSIONS

U.S. Supreme Court, Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, U.S. District Courts for Western Washington, and Southern and Eastern Districts of New York, Washington State, and New York State.

EDUCATION

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL, WASHINGTON, D.C., Juris Doctor, 1992

MOREHOUSE COLLEGE, ATLANTA, GEORGIA, Bachelor of Arts, Political Science, 1989

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July 12, 2012

The Honorable Larry Gossett
Chair, King County Council
Room 1200
C O U R T H O U S E

Dear Councilmember Gossett:

Enclosed for consideration and approval by the King County Council is a motion confirming the appointment of Garmon Newsom, who resides in council district six, to the King County Board of Ethics, effective August 1, 2012.

The appointment of Mr. Newsom is for a three-year term expiring July 31, 2015. His bio, Code of Ethics Financial Disclosure Statement, current board profile and appointment letter are enclosed for your information.

If you have any questions about this appointment, please have your staff call Rick Ybarra, liaison for boards & commission, at 206-263-9651.

Sincerely,

Dow Constantine
King County Executive

Enclosures

cc: King County Councilmembers
ATTN: Acting Chief of Staff
Patrick Hamacher, Senior Principal Legislative Analyst
Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council
Rick Ybarra, Liaison for Boards & Commissions, King County Executive Office
Kelli Williams, Staff Liaison
Garmon Newsom