## STAFF REPORT

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| **Agenda Item:** | 5 and 6 | **Name:** | Katherine Cortes |
| **Proposed No**.: | 2016-0114 & 0115 | **Date:** | March 1, 2016 |

**SUBJECT**

Proposed Motions 2016-0114 and -0115 would confirm the appointments of community appointees John Page and Ubax Gardheere to the Communities of Opportunity Interim Governance Group (IGG).

**SUMMARY**

Best Starts for Kids (BSK) is a prevention-oriented regional plan that is aimed at supporting the healthy development of children and youth, families and communities across the county. As approved by voters in November 2015, the BSK levy dedicates 10 percent of revenues to Communities of Opportunity (COO), a place-based, communities-focused strategy to support King County neighborhoods in developing capacity and solutions that will improve the community features that shape the health and well-being of their residents and the vibrancy of these places.

Ordinance 18220, enacted in January 2016, specified the composition and duties of the COO Interim Governance Group (IGG) as the advisory body for the portion of BSK levy proceeds set aside for the COO initiative until a successor group is established by ordinance. In part, this ordinance specified that the IGG must include two community appointees appointed by the Executive and confirmed by the Council, with motions to confirm these appointments to be transmitted to the Council by February 15, 2016.

Proposed Motions 2016-0114 (John Page) and 2016-0115 (Ubax Gardheere) would confirm the appointments of these members to the IGG.

**BACKGROUND**

**Communities of Opportunity**

Communities of Opportunity (COO) is a place-based initiative which, for King County, began as an early strategy of the King County Health and Human Services Transformation Plan (HHS Transformation Plan) and has operated since March 2014 as a partnership with The Seattle Foundation.

**Best Starts for Kids and Communities of Opportunity Governance**

On November 3, 2015, King County voters approved a six-year property tax levy to fund Best Starts for Kids (BSK), a prevention-oriented regional plan that is aimed at supporting the healthy development of children and youth, families and communities across the county. (Placement of the BSK ballot measure before King County voters was directed and authorized by Ordinance 18088, enacted in July 2015.) The property tax will be levied at a rate of $0.14 per $1,000 of assessed valuation in 2016, with an increase of up to three percent for each of the five subsequent years of the levy—2017 through 2021. The BSK levy is projected to generate a total of approximately $392.3 million in revenues over the six-year levy period.

It is estimated that the Communities of Opportunity portion (10 percent) of the Best Starts for Kids levy proceeds will be just over $6 million annually. Council must approve, by ordinance, the implementation plan that identifies the strategies to be funded and outcomes to be achieved with the use of levy proceeds described in Section 5.C. of Ordinance 18088, which includes the Communities of Opportunity portion of Best Starts for Kids. Council would also appropriate funds for any property-tax levy dollars to fund the Communities of Opportunity portion of Best Starts for Kids.

Ordinance 18220, enacted in January 2016, stood up the COO IGG as the advisory body for the COO portion of Best Starts for Kids programming[[1]](#footnote-1) charged with: 1) collaborating with the King County Executive in the development of the BSK implementation plan portions related to Communities of Opportunity (due June 1) and 2) making recommendations to the King County Executive concerning expenditures of BSK levy proceeds to plan, provide and administer communities of opportunities after the adoption by ordinance of the referenced implementation plan. The membership of the COO IGG as established by Ordinance 18220 is as follows:

COO IGG Membership Established by Ordinance 18220:

1. Michael Brown, The Seattle Foundation (TSF)

2. Deanna Dawson, Sound Cities Association

3. David Fleming, PATH

4. Hilary Franz, Futurewise

5. Patty Hayes, Public Health-Seattle & King County (PHSKC)

6. Betsy Jones, Executive’s Office, King County – Executive Appointee confirmed by ordinance

*7.* Paola Maranan, The Children’s Alliance

8. Gordon McHenry, Jr, Solid Ground

9. Jeff Natter, Pacific Hospital PDA

10. Adrienne Quinn, King County Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS)

11. Michael Woo, community representative

12. Tony To, HomeSight (Rainier Valley site representative)

13. Adam Taylor, Global to Local (SeaTac/Tukwila site representative)

14. Sili Savusa, White Center Community Development Association (White Center site representative)

15. Scarlett Aldebot-Green, Legislative Analyst, King County Council – Council Appointee confirmed by ordinance

16. Community Appointee – to be appointed by Feb. 15 and subsequently confirmed by motion

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Ordinance 18220 directs that the community appointees shall:

* Reflect the demographic characteristics of the communities that would qualify for funding under either the funding guidelines established for the pre-levy communities of opportunity initiative or the funding guidelines established in the implementation plan for the best starts for kids levy required under Ordinance 18088 once the plan is approved by ordinance, or both;
* Be grassroots organizers or activists with relevant organizing and advocacy experience necessary to effectively address the health, racial and economic inequities facing persons residing in the communities of opportunities neighborhoods; or
* Live in or have worked in a community the characteristics of which would qualify it for COO funding.

**ANALYSIS**

Proposed Motions 2016-0114 and -0115 would confirm the appointments of community appointees John Page and Ubax Gardheere to the Communities of Opportunity Interim Governance Group (IGG).

Proposed Motion 2016-0114: Mr. **John Page** has been a resident of Seattle for over 12 years. In his application, he indicates that during that time he has been very involved in a number of community-based initiatives. These include organizing roles for Village of Hope, a nonprofit organization focusing on re-entry for adults exiting incarceration, and the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (L.E.A.D.) project that enrolls low-level drug offenders with mental health, substance abuse, and other associated services to reduce incidents of cycling through the King County Jail. He notes his experience as also including consultation and/or participation in the Black Prisoners Caucus; the City of Seattle’s Career Bridge Program; and Undoing Institutional Racism, an anti-racism training organization.

Proposed Motion 2016-0115: Ms. **Ubax Gardheere** is currently a Program Director at Puget Sound Sage. She indicates that she has worked extensively with the East African refugee/immigrant community in Washington State for over 10 years as an organizer, lobbyist, human rights advocate and Resource Development Director. Ms. Gardheere notes that she is Somali-American and is tri-lingual (English, Somali and Swahili). Her application materials indicate that she is the Co-founder and Board Chair of Culturally Appropriate and Responsive Education Center, an organization with a mission to eliminate the opportunity gap among low-income East African Youth in South King County. Ms. Gardheere serves on the boards of African Diaspora of Washington (ADWA) and the Social Justice Fund NW, a foundation working on the frontlines of social change.

**AMENDMENTS**

Striking Amendment S1 to Proposed Motion 2016-0114 and Striking Amendment S1 to Proposed Motion 2016-0115 are technical amendments which make the form of the appointment motion more consistent with prior appointment motions and removes misstated references to previously passed Ordinance 18220 requiring the community appointees. Each striking amendment has a Title Amendment T1 to align the reference to the position with Ordinance 18220.

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. Proposed Motion 2016-0114 (attachments available upon request)
2. Striking Amendment S1 to Proposed Motion 2016-0114
3. Title Amendment T1 to Proposed Motion 2016-0114
4. Proposed Motion 2016-0115 (attachments available upon request)
5. Striking Amendment S1 to Proposed Motion 2016-0115
6. Title Amendment T1 to Proposed Motion 2016-0115
7. Transmittal Letter

**INVITED**

1. John Page, community organizer
2. Ubax Gardheere, Program Director, Puget Sound Sage
3. Cheryl Markham, Strategic Policy Advisor, Department of Community and Human Services

1. Ordinance 18220 also directed the Executive to transmit to the council an ordinance on the composition and duties of the successor group to the COO IGG by June 1, 2016. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)