



Planning and Community Development

Ryan Countryman

Council Initiated:

☒ Yes

☐ No

ECAF: 2024-0459

Motion: 24-155

Type:

☐ Contract

☒ **Board Appt.**

☐ Code

Amendment

☐ Budget Action

☐ Other

Requested

Handling:

☒ **Normal**

☐ Expedite

☐ Urgent

Fund Source:

☐ General Fund

☐ Other

☒ **N/A**

Executive

Recommendation:

☐ Approve

☐ Do Not Approve

☒ **N/A**

Approved as to

Form:

☐ Yes

☐ No

☒ **N/A**

Subject: Board Appointment – Snohomish County Planning Commission

Scope: Motion appointing Layla Bush for a first partial term on Planning Commission as a District 3 representative

Duration: Passage to July 1, 2025

Fiscal Impact: ☐ Current Year ☐ Multi-Year ☒ **N/A**

Authority Granted: None

Background:

The Board: The Planning Commission is an 11-member advisory body to the County Council and Executive. Terms on the commission are four years. (More details about the Planning Commission are on page 3). A commissioner representing District 3 resigned, leaving a vacant partial term that the subject motion would fill.¹ The ten other planning commission positions are all currently occupied.

The Nominee: Layla Bush has applied to serve on the Planning Commission. She is a resident of Council District 3, has a master's degree in public administration, and has previously served on the city of Lynnwood's planning commission. In her application, Layla Bush writes that, "I'm a planning and zoning nerd and already read quite a bit on my own time about the various issues communities are facing and what is or isn't working to address those issues."

Councilmember Strom Peterson is nominating Layla Bush to complete the unexpired term. Layla Bush is well-qualified to serve. Her experience would bring a new perspective and maintain balance on the Planning Commission. After completing this first partial term, Layla Bush would be eligible for reappointment to a first full term on the commission.

Request: Move Motion 24-155 to General Legislative Session on April 10 to set time and date for a public hearing. Suggested time and date is Wednesday May 1, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.

¹ Motion 22-228 appointed the prior commissioner to a full four-year term ending on June 29, 2026; however, that expiration date appears to have been in error. Per [SCC 2.08.100](#), Motion 22-228 should have been to complete a vacant partial term ending July 1, 2025, instead. The current motion re-establishes the July 1, 2025, date so that terms of commissioners representing council District 3 will alternate every two years.

Exhibit A. Planning Commission Membership Table

Planning Commission Membership – March 28, 2024			
Representing	Commissioner	Term	Term Expiration
Council District #1	Merle Ash	Second	July 1, 2024
	Mark James	Second	July 1, 2027
Council District #2	Raymond Sheldon, Jr.	Second	July 1, 2027
	Kimberly Busteed	First	November 30, 2026
Council District #3	Robert Larsen, Chair	Third	July 1, 2027
	Vacant*		July 1, 2025
Council District #4	Tom Campbell	First	November 24, 2025
	Neil Pedersen	First	January 4, 2027
Council District #5	Rosanna Brown	First	January 12, 2026
	Karl Niemela	First	July 1, 2026
At-Large	Angie Sievers	First	July 1, 2025
* Layla Bush nominated for appointment by this motion			

Exhibit B. Composition and Requirements of the Planning Commission

The Snohomish County Planning Commission is an advisory body to the County Council and County Executive. The commission holds public hearings and provides recommendations on proposed changes to the county's comprehensive plan and development regulations. The commission has positions for eleven members, two from each council district and one at-large member nominated by the executive, which serve four-year terms and may not serve more than two complete consecutive terms.

Snohomish County Code ([2.03.060](#) and [2.08.080](#)) provides that the council appoints planning commission members. Requirements are that commissioners:

1. Not be county employees;
2. Have sufficient time to attend all scheduled meetings, and
3. Not serve on more than two boards or commissions at the same time (ad hoc or advisory committees do not count against the limit).

County code also provides that nominees should possess attributes including a background in one or more of the following:

- Architecture
- Law
- Farming
- Recreation
- Finance
- Real estate
- Environment
- Construction
- Fisheries
- Engineering
- Appraisal
- Land use planning
- Education
- Related backgrounds, or job knowledge or interests

Nominees should also have knowledge of land use theories and growth management legislation, minimal potential for conflict of interest, a demonstrated interest in the welfare of Snohomish County, and should add balance to countywide representation on the commission.

Additional information is available at <https://snohomishcountywa.gov/164/Planning-Commission>.