



Snohomish County Council

Committee: Committee of the Whole

Analyst: Ryan Countryman

ECAF: 2023-0320

Proposal: Motion 23-129

Date: April 4, 2023

Consideration:

Proposed Motion 23-129 would appoint Laron Olson to the Snohomish County Community Services Advisory Council (CSAC) to serve an initial four-year term.

Background

The CSAC advises the County Executive and County Council on causes and solutions to poverty. It also oversees administration of the federal Community Services Block Grant program. (More details about the CSAC are on page 2.)

Laron Olson has applied to the CSAC as a concerned community member. Laron is a retiree residing in Council District 5 who has extensive experience with youth outreach and poverty reduction through prior volunteer work with several organizations, including Take the Next Step which provides meals and other support to low income people in the Monroe area. Laron has indicated a willingness and ability to perform the duties of a CSAC member. The County Executive has nominated Laron to a first term of four years as a community representative expiring on March 22, 2027 the CSAC as a community representative.

Current Proposal

Scope: Motion 23-129 would appoint Laron Olson to the CSAC.

Effective Date: The appointment would begin upon passage of this motion.

Fiscal Implications: No impact.

Handling: ECAF was marked as normal. Five other nominations to CSAC are scheduled for consideration on April 5 (Motions 23-114 to 23-118). Consideration of this motion on April 5 as well would synchronize the appointment processes.

Request: Move to General Legislation Session on, April 5, 2023, for consideration.

Exhibit A – About the Community Services Advisory Council

The Community Services Advisory Council (CSAC) was established in 1986 (SCC 2.420) and is tasked with advising the County Executive and County Council on causes and potential solutions to poverty. CSAC is comprised of between 12 to 24 members with representation from relevant stakeholder groups (community/private sector, low-income representatives, and public elected officials). Efforts are made to ensure each district is represented, however it is contingent on the pool of applicants. Each member is appointed to a four-year term and may not serve more than two consecutive terms.

CSAC is responsible for engaging with the Snohomish County community to address needs and address causes of poverty. Additionally, CSAC oversees administration of the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), a federal program that provides funds to “alleviate the causes and conditions of poverty and remove obstacles to self-sufficiency in communities.”¹

CASA Mission “The Advisory Council’s mission is to make Snohomish County more responsive to the needs and interests of the poor by mobilizing both government and non-government resources, and creating greater institutional sensitivity through education and advocacy.”²

Members commit to identifying needs from the Community Needs Assessment; an estimated three hours monthly for CSAC meetings, activities, and preparation; attending all regularly scheduled meetings (which are held during business hours); and willingness to attend the annual planning meeting. Members serve without compensation.

¹ <https://snohomishcountywa.gov/506/Community-Services-Block-Grant>

² <https://www.snohomishcountywa.gov/140/Community-Services-Advisory-Council>