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MEDIA RELEASE

FROM: Lacey G. Simpson, Acting City Manager

DATE: July 5, 2022

RE: Announcement of City Manager/General Manager Finalist Candidates

The Ketchikan City Council with the assistance of Strategic Government Resources, Inc. (SGR) has conducted a nationwide search for a new City Manager/Ketchikan Public Utilities General Manager. The search produced a field of 38 candidates from 21 states and 2 countries. Assistant City Manager Lacey Simpson has been serving as the Interim City Manager since September 2021 when previous and longtime City Manager/General Manager Karl Amylon retired.

On June 21, 2022, the City Council selected five finalists to be invited to participate in the onsite interview process scheduled for July 14 – 16, 2022. The three-day process will include a community tour, candidate sessions with senior staff, a community forum, and interviews with the Mayor and City Council on Saturday, July 16 beginning at 10:00 a.m. in City Council Chambers.

Members of the public will have the opportunity to meet the five finalists for the position of Ketchikan City Manager/Ketchikan Public Utilities General Manager on Friday, July 15, 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM, at the Ted Ferry Civic Center. The Candidate Forum will be moderated using questions selected in advance from those submitted by the public. The public can submit questions for consideration by emailing [laceys@ktn-ak.us](mailto:lanceys@ktn-ak.us). All questions must be submitted by Sunday, July 10, 2022.

FINALISTS

William Appleton has over 15 years of local government leadership experience and currently serves as the Public Works Director for the City of SeaTac, WA. Prior experience includes 18 months as the Deputy Public Works Director for the City of Federal Way, WA, 6 years as Federal Way's Surface Water Manager and over two years as their Development Services Manager. Mr. Appleton previously worked as a Civil Engineer/ Project Manager for the US Army Corps of Engineers. He holds a master's degree in Civil Engineering from Purdue University and a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering, also from Purdue University.

Mark Freitag, former U.S. Army Colonel, has served as the City Manager for the City of Janesville, WI for the past nine years. During his tenure with the U.S. Army, Mr. Freitag was stationed twice in Ft. Wainwright, AK. He served there initially from 2004 to 2007 and again from 2012 to 2013 in the position of Deputy Commander. Mr. Freitag holds two master's degrees. One in Management from St. Mary College in Leavenworth, KS and the other in National Security Strategy from the National War College in Washington, DC. Mr. Freitag earned his bachelor's degree in Western European Studies from the US Military Academy at West Point, NY.

Paul Dyal has more than 10 years of direct local government experience and an additional 15 years of project management experience working with federal, state and local agencies. Mr. Dyal currently serves as the Interim City Manager/ Executive Director of Utilities for Lake City, FL. Prior to that, he was the Assistant City Manager overseeing Utilities and Public Works for Lake City, FL. Mr. Dyal holds a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Columbia Southern University and is a Certified Public Manager through Florida State University.

Scott Thomas has more than 25 years of local government experience, serving since 2018 as the Town Administrator for La Conner, WA. Prior experience includes 10 years with the City of Burlington, WA as City Attorney, 5 years with the City of Mount Vernon, WA as City Attorney and 5 years as Assistant City Attorney for the City of Tacoma, WA. Mr. Thomas holds a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Puget Sound School of Law and a bachelor's degree in Architectural Studies from the University of Nebraska.

Delilah Walsh has more than 10 years of local government leadership experience and has spent the last 3 years working for the City of Las Cruces, NM. Initially hired as the Assistant Utilities Director for Las Cruces, Ms. Walsh was promoted to the Utilities Director position in October 2020. Prior experience includes 10 years with the County of Socorro, NM as the County Manager and almost 10 years with First State Bank, ultimately holding the position of Vice President. Ms. Walsh earned her master's degree of Engineering Management from the New Mexico Institute of Mining & Technology (NMIMT) and her bachelor's degree in Psychology, also from NMIMT.

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