



# City of Seattle

Office of the Mayor  
City of Seattle  
Bruce A. Harrell, Mayor

## Executive Order 2017-06: Reaffirming and Strengthening Seattle's Business Retention Strategies

*An executive order reaffirming and strengthening existing business retention strategies, providing guidance to engage key employers in a response to Amazon's Request for Proposal for "HQ2," and establishing an Interdepartmental Taskforce on Business Retention Strategies.*

WHEREAS, Seattle strives to be the most equitable, innovative, and supportive city in which to start and grow a business or a career; and

WHEREAS, business recruitment, retention, and expansion is driven by a wide variety of factors including natural environment, infrastructure, cost of doing business, effective public safety, talent and a vibrant and inclusive culture; and

WHEREAS, Amazon has provided a transformative presence, as an economic engine, civic partner, and globally recognized champion of innovation; and

WHEREAS, Seattle supports livability for workers across all sectors and seeks to partner with employers and the private sector toward that end;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bruce A. Harrell, Mayor of Seattle, hereby affirm our commitment to business retention by ordering the following actions:

**Section 1.** An Interdepartmental Taskforce to address business retention strategies is hereby established. The Office of Economic Development shall lead and coordinate efforts across departments and report on outcomes.

a. The following departments shall be primary members of the Business Retention Taskforce:

- Seattle Department of Transportation
- Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections
- Office of Economic Development
- Office of Policy and Innovation
- Office of Intergovernmental Affairs
- Department of Education and Early Learning
- Office of Housing

- Office of Labor Standards
  - Office of Immigrant & Refugee Affairs
  - Department of Finance and Administrative Services
- b. The goal of the Business Retention Taskforce is to coordinate efforts and align resources that support a vibrant, thriving, and resilient community, that in turn supports business retention and expansion. The Taskforce shall consider issues including:
- i. The protection of workers' rights
  - ii. The treatment of employees
  - iii. Increasing affordable housing
  - iv. Ensuring equitable worker treatment across industries
  - v. The impact of City policies and regulations on Seattle's business environment
  - vi. Equitable educational and career pathways
  - vii. Transportation strategies and investments in and around employment centers
  - viii. Opportunities to coordinate and streamline permitting processes

**Section 2. Amazon RFP Response.** The Taskforce is hereby directed to engage key employers, to inform the City of Seattle's response to Amazon's Request for Proposal for their HQ2, through the following actions:

- a. OED, in conjunction with the Taskforce, shall engage community, labor unions, and leading business associations, which may include but are not limited to the Seattle Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, Challenge Seattle, local labor unions and representatives, and the Washington Technology Industry Association.
- b. OED, in conjunction with the Taskforce, will further identify executive leadership among the City's key employers and academic institutions, including the University of Washington to determine and engender a coalition in support of the RFP response.

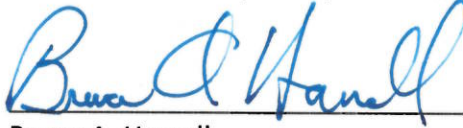
**Section 3. Taskforce Deliverables.** The deliverables of the Business Retention Taskforce shall include:

- a. A coordinated response to the Amazon HQ2 RFP before October 19, 2017. OED will both coordinate and lead the response, as well as coordinate with additional jurisdictions, associate development organizations, and the Washington State Department of Commerce toward this end.
- b. Tracking and reporting of Amazon's decision and selection, scheduled for 2018.
- c. Report on interdepartmental strategies to retain Seattle businesses, across business district and key industry sectors (which may include but are not limited to information

technology, life sciences, manufacturing, maritime, green business, life sciences and global health).

Inquiries by City Departments, grantees, and contracted service providers regarding this Executive Order should be directed to Rebecca Lovell, Office of Economic Development at (206) 733-9196.

Dated this 15<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2017.



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Bruce A. Harrell  
Mayor, City of Seattle