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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INDEPENDENT SALARY COMMISSION PROPOSES CITY COUNCIL PAY INCREASE

Date of Release: September 15, 2017

Contact:

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Commission Proposes Salary Increase and Benefit Stipend for City Council

An independent commission reviewing Olympia City Council salaries is proposing an increase in councilmember pay. The Olympia City Council established the Independent Salary Commission in July to review Council salaries and establish a compensation schedule by October 1, 2017.

“The Commission believes that given the sizable time commitment required of Olympia Councilmembers, coupled with the complexity of the issues before the Council, a salary adjustment is warranted, said Stephen Langer, Salary Commission Chair and former Olympia City Councilmember. “Attracting quality candidates to serve on Council is in the best interest of the citizens of Olympia, and the positions should be fairly compensated.”

Olympia Councilmembers spend approximately 90 hours per month serving the City and are, therefore, considered a part-time employee. Full-time employment is approximately 160 hours per month.

Council salaries have not changed since 2008. The Commission is proposing a cost-of-living increase that would bring Council pay up to the level of increases City employees have received since 2008. The Commission proposal also includes a stipend of \$275 per month to offset out-of-pocket expenses for medical and dental benefits. This amount is equivalent to the cash value of benefits for a part-time employee at the City of Olympia.

Position	Current Annual Salary	Consideration		
		Annual Salary	Benefit Stipend	Total Compensation
Mayor	\$ 19,968.01	\$ 25,034.87	\$ 3,300.00	\$ 28,334.87
Mayor Pro-Tem	\$ 18,303.95	\$ 22,948.56	\$ 3,300.00	\$ 26,248.56
Council	\$ 16,639.99	\$ 20,862.37	\$ 3,300.00	\$ 24,162.37

The Commission held three public meetings starting in August 2017. The group reviewed the compensation from other Council-Manager Cities and took into account the historical cost-of-living increases received by City employees, medical benefits, and Council work load. They also considered the complexity of governing the Capital City, the number of committee assignments, inter-jurisdictional responsibilities, and the Council's commitment to public engagement.

Besides Langer, members of the Independent Salary Commission include Samantha Jenkins, Jim Randall, Joyce Turner and Jill Severn.

The Commission will review the final proposal at a public meeting on Tuesday, September 19, 2017, at 5:30 p.m. in Room 207 at Olympia City Hall, 601 4th Ave East, Olympia.

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