



Snohomish County Council

NEWS RELEASE

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Snohomish County Council announced the appointment of Barbara Dykes as the new Hearing Examiner for the County. Barbara previously headed the Civil Division of the Snohomish County Prosecutor's Office.

"Barbara has an extensive background in legal matters related to land use issues and brings management skills that will help us maintain an efficient, customer focused legal centered Hearing Examiner Office," said Councilmember Kirke Sievers.

"Barbara has the respect of the legal community and the strong leadership skills that are needed for this position," said Council Chair Dave Gossett. "We are pleased to have the opportunity to hire a lawyer of this caliber".

The Hearing Examiner is an independent, quasi-judicial department of the county government. It is important to have someone like Barbara who has a respectful management style and is a clear voice on the findings of fact", said Councilmember John Koster.

"Barbara brings a unique understanding of the Snohomish County Code to her new role as Hearing Examiner," said Councilmember Gary Nelson.

Barbara Dykes has been the Chief Civil Deputy of the Snohomish County Prosecutor's Office since 2003. She directed the activities of 27 lawyers and a budget of \$4.4 million. During her 17 year tenure with the Prosecutor's office she has provided legal counsel to the County Council on matters including comprehensive planning and implementation of the state Growth Management Act.

"Barbara will be an excellent independent decision maker," said Councilmember Dave Somers. "We look forward to her joining the Legislative Branch of Snohomish County Government".

The Hearing Examiner has jurisdiction over a wide range of subject matter, including many types of land use applications and appeals, such as most rezones, subdivisions, planned residential developments, conditional use permits, code enforcement appeals, administrative permit appeals, State Environmental Policy Act appeals, as well as false alarm notice appeals, and business and animal license appeals.