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November 6, 2024

Assembly of the City and Borough of Juneau
C/O Beth McEwen, Municipal Clerk
155 Heritage Way
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: Recommendations to the CBJ Assembly for Appointment of Members of the Board of Directors of the Juneau Economic Development Council

Dear CBJ Assembly:

The Juneau Economic Development Council (JEDC) seeks the assistance of the City and Borough of Juneau (CBJ) Assembly to make three (3) appointments to our Board of Directors. In accordance with the Bylaws of JEDC, the membership of the JEDC Board of Directors is comprised as follows:

- The Mayor of the City and Borough of Juneau or the Mayor's designee from the CBJ Assembly;
- The Chancellor of University of Alaska Southeast (UAS) or the Chancellor's designee from UAS;
- One member appointed by the CBJ Assembly representing organized labor;
- One member appointed by the CBJ Assembly representing a nonprofit environmental organization;
- Seven (7) members appointed by the CBJ Assembly based upon their experience and expertise in fields relating to economic development, including but not limited to large and small business, entrepreneurship, natural resource development, tourism, banking and finance, engineering and construction, and government.

Board Members serve staggered three-year terms and may serve two consecutive terms. In Article Four, Section 2, Paragraph E, of JEDC Bylaws, it states:

"The JEDC shall publish notice of vacancies on the JEDC Board of Directors. The JEDC Board or a recruitment committee will review and may interview candidates for the JEDC Board of Directors. The JEDC Board will forward the names of recommended candidates to the CBJ Assembly. The CBJ Assembly will appoint JEDC board members."

In accordance with our Bylaws, notice of vacancies on the JEDC Board of Directors was posted to the CBJ and JEDC websites. Three At-Large Seat openings currently exist on the Board with terms expiring on/about November 2027.

At the meeting of the Board of Directors of JEDC on Friday, November 1, the Board reviewed the applications of three (3) candidates and arrived at recommendations for appointments. The Board appreciates the interest of the citizens that applied to serve our community through the JEDC Board. The three applicants are:

1. Melissa Kookesh
2. Aaron Morrison
3. Todd Schur

The JEDC Board of Directors recommends to the CBJ Assembly that the following persons be appointed to the JEDC Board:

1. **Melissa Kookesh**, to an At-Large Seat for a three-year term expiring on/about November 2027. Ms. Kookesh currently works as the Tribal Liaison for the Alaska Broadband Office in the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development (DCCED). Previously, she served as the Legislative Aide to Senator Bert Stedman from 2015 to 2022 and then a Legislative Liaison for the Commissioner's Office in the DCCED from February 2022 to October 2022. Ms. Kookesh's prior service also includes nearly 10 years in the Office of the President at the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes. She formerly served on the Kootznoowoo, Inc. Board of Directors since 2016 and served as Board Chair from 2016-2022. She received a Certificate in Tribal Management from the University of Alaska, Fairbanks in 2014, as well as her Associates of Applied Science Degree in Tribal Management in 2015. Melissa has served one unfinished term and one full term on the Juneau Economic Development Council board and seeks to be re-appointed to a second full term.
2. **Aaron Morrison**, to an At-Large Seat for a three-year term expiring on/about November 2027. Mr. Morrison was appointed to the JEDC Board when he was the Mechanical Engineering Supervisor for the Southeast Alaska office of PDC Engineers/RESPEC and served as the Construction Administrator for the Juneau International Airport Reconstruction Project. He is currently an Engineer/Proposals Coordinator at Udelhoven, Inc. He is a past president and active member of the Rotary Club of Juneau, and past president of the Southeast Alaska Friends of Montessori (SEAFOM). Aaron holds a Master's Degree in Business Administration (MBA) and a Master's Degree in Science (Engineering) from San Jose State University. Aaron has served one full term on the Juneau Economic Development Council board and seeks to be re-appointed to a second full term.
3. **Todd Schur**, to an At-Large Seat for a three-year term expiring on/about November 2027. Mr. Schur is currently the Vice President of Marketing and Community Impact at True North Federal Credit Union. Prior to his role at True North Federal Credit Union, he was the Marketing Operations Manager at Alaska Brewing Company. He has recently served as Vice President of the Rotary Club of Juneau in 2024 and has been elected to serve as President in 2025. Additionally, Mr. Schur has been an active member of the Juneau Chamber of Commerce since 2023. Todd received his Bachelor of Arts in Communications and Public Relations from the State University of New York College at Oswego. Todd is seeking a three-year term on the Juneau Economic Development Council board.

On behalf of the JEDC Board of Directors, we look forward to your appointments. The JEDC Board of Directors would also like to thank the following Board Member who has completed two full terms and is ending his service with the Juneau Economic Development Council: *Jake Carpenter*.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Holst", enclosed within a hand-drawn oval.

Brian Holst
Executive Director