



**BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF MERCER ISLAND**

**AB 5678
April 7, 2020
Regular Business**

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

TITLE:	AB 5678: City Council Line of Succession	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Select a councilmember to succeed the Mayor and Deputy Mayor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution

DEPARTMENT:	City Manager
STAFF:	Alison Van Gorp, Policy Group Lead
COUNCIL LIAISON:	n/a
EXHIBITS:	n/a
CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY:	n/a

AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE	\$ n/a
AMOUNT BUDGETED	\$ n/a
APPROPRIATION REQUIRED	\$ n/a

SUMMARY

Current city regulations (e.g. MICC 9.40 Mayor’s Emergency Powers) provide the Mayor with certain powers, such as the ability to close streets, businesses and public places in the event of an emergency. RCW 35A.13.035 states that the Mayor is succeeded by the Deputy Mayor in this role if the Mayor is unavailable, and when both the Mayor and Deputy Mayor are unavailable for these duties, an alternate will be selected by majority vote of the Council. Due to the nature of the COVID-19 emergency, it is prudent for the Council to identify in advance a second alternate for the Mayor, should both the Mayor and Deputy Mayor become unavailable.

The process for designating the second alternate is the same as the process for electing the Deputy Mayor. The Mayor will preside over the process and the Council will nominate alternates and then vote. A majority vote is required to designate the second alternate. At the Council meeting, the Mayor will entertain a motion for "nominations" for a Councilmember to serve as a second alternate for the Mayor. If only one nomination is made, it is appropriate to make a motion and obtain a second to instruct the City Clerk to cast a unanimous ballot for that nomination.

If more than one nomination is made, an open election is conducted by roll call vote to decide among those nominated who shall be elected. If there is not a majority of votes for one nominee (i.e. 4 votes), the process will repeat with only the nominees who have received two or more votes in the first round.

Staff recommends that this designation remain in place throughout the duration of the COVID-19 emergency and until such a time that the Emergency Operation Center is deactivated, or until the next Mayor and Deputy Mayor are elected in January 2022, whichever event comes first.

RECOMMENDATION

Nominate a second alternate to fulfill the duties of the Mayor, should both the Mayor and Deputy Mayor be unavailable.