



**PRESS RELEASE**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**CITY OF FIFE ANNOUNCES TWO FINALISTS FOR CITY MANAGER POSITION**

**Fife, WA** – The City of Fife has selected two finalists for its city manager position. They are Russ Blount and Derek Matheson. The public will have an opportunity to hear from each of the candidates at two special council meetings held at 6 p.m. on Feb. 15 and Feb. 16. For more information on how to attend these public presentations, visit [cityoffife.org/meetings](http://cityoffife.org/meetings).

Russ Blount is the current interim city manager at the City of Fife. He was appointed to that position by Fife City Council in July 2021. Prior to that appointment, he served as the city's deputy city manager and long-time public works director. He's served the City of Fife for 20 years. Prior to the City of Fife, Blount worked as the public works director at the Town of Eatonville. Blount has a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a master's degree in dynamics of organization from the University of Pennsylvania.

Derek Matheson is the current Chief Administrative Officer at the City of Kent and has been serving in that role since August 2014. Before working for the City of Kent, Matheson was the city manager at the City of Covington for seven years. He served in various roles at the City of Federal Way for 12 years, including assistant city manager and interim city manager. Matheson has a bachelor's degree in political science and a master's degree in public administration from the University of Washington. He is also an ICMA Credentialed Manager.

The City of Fife's Human Resources Department has been recruiting for the city manager position since October. The process resulted in numerous candidates. City councilmembers interviewed several candidates and narrowed their selection to these two finalists.

The city manager position is open following the departure of Hyun Kim, who accepted a position as city administrator for the City of Gillette, Wyoming. Kim began working as city manager at the City of Fife in September 2017 and departed in August 2021. Before Kim's departure, Fife City Councilmembers appointed longtime staff member Russ Blount to lead the city as interim city manager.

The city has a population of about 10,000 and in recent years has grown to become a booming economic force that is rich with businesses small and large with a diverse economic base and acres of commercial warehouses.

The City of Fife uses a council-manager form of government. The Fife City Council consists of seven members, elected to four-year terms. Councilmembers are responsible for establishing policy, voting appropriations, developing the city's vision and mission, as well as passing local ordinances, resolutions and proclamations. Councilmembers appoint the city manager, who carries out decisions made by councilmembers, oversees city staff members and runs the daily operations of the city.

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