



PRESS RELEASE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FIFE CITY COUNCIL APPOINTS DEREK MATHESON AS CITY MANAGER

Fife, WA – Derek Matheson was appointed to the city manager position by Fife City Council at their regular meeting on March 8, 2022. Matheson will serve as Fife’s top appointed official beginning April 18, leading the city in the day-to-day operations and assisting city council and staff in shaping several major policy issues.

Mayor Kim Roscoe noted, “Matheson has been local for his entire career and knows local issues and strategies. His strengths in communications, equity and inclusion, strategic planning, financial sustainability, economic development and infrastructure funding and construction will benefit the Fife community. As we get closer to Sound Transit light rail, navigate post-pandemic issues, address aging facilities and respond to the pressures Fife faces due to its geographical location, his leadership and experience will be instrumental.”

Derek Matheson has been serving as the Chief Administrative Officer at the City of Kent 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 is a strong organization with a lot of exciting projects in the years ahead. I'm looking forward to getting to know the city better and working in partnership with the city council, city employees, residents and businesses to advance the city's goals," said Matheson. "I'm incredibly thankful to the city council for this opportunity."

The city manager position was open following the departure of Hyun Kim, who accepted a position as city administrator for the City of Gillette, Wyoming. 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 nearly 11,000 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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