# Seatle City Council Select Budget Committee

Councilmember Budget Proposals| Wednesday, October 28, 2026

## Office of Economic Development (OED)

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# 2027-2028 COUNCIL BUDGET ACTION

V1

**OED-001-A**

Increase OED by $500,000 GF (2027) and $500,000 GF (2028) for cleaning and targeted physical improvements in West Seattle business districts

**SPONSORS**

**Rob Saka**, Eddie Lin, Robert Kettle

**FINANCIAL SUMMARY**

| Fund | 2027 Increase (Decrease) | 2028 Increase (Decrease) |
|---|---|---|
| General Fund | $(500,000) | $(500,000) |
| Total Budget Balance Effect | $(500,000) | $(500,000) |

**CENTRAL STAFF SUMMARY**

This CBA would increase proposed appropriations to the Office of Economic Development (OED) by $500,000 GF in 2027 and $500,000 GF in 2028 to support expanded cleaning services and targeted physical improvements in West Seattle business districts and commercial corridors.

The intent of this action is to fund an integrated package of services for the neighborhood business districts and commercial corridors in West Seattle, including the Alaska Junction, Admiral Junction, and Morgan Junction. OED should coordinate, or work with relevant City departments and external partners to designate an entity responsible to coordinate, the activities and services funded to distribute investments among the districts and corridors, respond to urgent needs, eliminate duplication of efforts, and delineate recurring services from one-time improvements.

The targeted physical improvements should include visible capital spot upgrades such as pedestrian lighting, alley and waste improvements, graffiti-resistant treatments, bike parking, seating, planters, and minor public-realm repairs.

The expanded cleaning services should, at a minimum, include pressure washing and address litter and garbage. Funding is intended to be provided to organizations with ties to neighborhood business communities, such as the West Seattle Junction Association Business Improvement Area, the West Seattle Chamber of Commerce, and A Cleaner Alki. If an appropriate organization cannot be identified to provide cleaning services, the department may enter into an agreement with Seattle Public Utilities to engage the Clean City program for this purpose.

**ATTACHMENT: No**

**TRANSACTIONS - ONGOING**

# 2027-2028 COUNCIL BUDGET ACTION

| Dept | BSL | BCL | Year | Revenue | Expenditure |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| OED | Business Services | 00100-BO-ED-X1D00 | 2027 | | $500,000 |
| OED | Business Services | 00100-BO-ED-X1D00 | 2028 | | $500,000 |

# 2027-2028 COUNCIL BUDGET ACTION

V1

**OED-002-A**

Increase OED by $200,000 GF (2027) to support street activation efforts on Ballard Avenue and in the Ballard Brewery District

**SPONSORS**

**Dan Strauss**, Alexis Mercedes Rinck, Dionne Foster

**FINANCIAL SUMMARY**

| Fund | 2027 Increase (Decrease) | 2028 Increase (Decrease) |
|---|---|---|
| General Fund | $(200,000) | $0 |
| Total Budget Balance Effect | $(200,000) | $0 |

**CENTRAL STAFF SUMMARY**

This CBA would increase proposed appropriations to the Office of Economic Development (OED) by $200,000 GF in 2027 (one-time) to support street use and activation efforts on Ballard Avenue and in the Ballard Brewery District. This funding would complement the Ballard Alliance's pursuit of State House Bill 1515 pilot program resources to implement a Sip and Stroll program, which allows designated outdoor alcohol service within approved activation zones. OED would use the funds to partner with the Ballard Alliance, local businesses, and relevant City departments to implement the program and evaluate outcomes.

**ATTACHMENT: No**

**TRANSACTIONS - ONE-TIME**

| Dept | BSL | BCL | Year | Revenue | Expenditure |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| OED | Business Services | 00100-BO-ED-X1D00 | 2027 | | $200,000 |

# 2027-2028 COUNCIL BUDGET ACTION

V1

**OED-003-A**

Increase OED by $200,000 GF (2027) for commercial tenant attraction in Pioneer Square

**SPONSORS**

**Rob Saka**, Joy Hollingsworth, Robert Kettle

**FINANCIAL SUMMARY**

| Fund | 2027 Increase (Decrease) | 2028 Increase (Decrease) |
|---|---|---|
| General Fund | $(200,000) | $0 |
| Total Budget Balance Effect | $(200,000) | $0 |

**CENTRAL STAFF SUMMARY**

This CBA would increase proposed General Fund appropriations to the Office of Economic Development (OED) in 2027 by $200,000 (one-time) to address upper-floor commercial vacancies in Pioneer Square, by implementing a commercial tenant attraction strategy, including but not limited to: an inventory of available upper-floor vacancies, property-owner engagement, business and employer recruitment, marketing and activations that draw long-term tenancy, and outreach to potential tenants regarding OED's technical assistance programs.

In 2025, OED completed a retail study across 11 different neighborhoods, including Pioneer Square, providing recommendations for addressing upper floor vacancies in the neighborhood. In 2026 OED provided $160,000 to the Alliance for Pioneer Square to implement a storefront activation strategy. This proviso is intended to build upon the work in 2025 and 2026 to address upper-floor commercial vacancies.

**ATTACHMENT: No**

**TRANSACTIONS - ONE-TIME**

| Dept | BSL | BCL | Year | Revenue | Expenditure |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| OED | Business Services | 00100-BO-ED-X1D00 | 2027 | | $200,000 |

# 2027-2028 COUNCIL BUDGET ACTION

V1

**OED-005-A**

Proviso $200,000 in OED to activate vacant commercial spaces in Rainier Beach

**SPONSORS**

**Eddie Lin**, Alexis Mercedes Rinck, Dionne Foster

**FINANCIAL SUMMARY**

| Fund | 2027 Increase (Decrease) | 2028 Increase (Decrease) |
|---|---|---|
| General Fund | $0 | $0 |
| Total Budget Balance Effect | $0 | $0 |

**CENTRAL STAFF SUMMARY**

This CBA would impose a proviso on $200,000 in the Office of Economic Development (OED) to develop and begin implementing a plan for activating vacant commercial spaces at and around the intersection of Rainier Avenue South and South Henderson Street. This support may include, but not be limited to, a review of existing neighborhood/safety plans and past community engagement efforts to identify community priorities for the area, assistance in connecting community-based organizations with the property owners of currently vacant commercial spaces, advancing opportunities for community-driven activation or community use of vacant space, and/or development of a recruitment or City partnership strategy to attract long-term potential tenants in the area.

In 2025, OED completed a retail study across 11 different neighborhoods, including Rainier Beach, providing recommendations for neighborhood commercial space activation and investment. In 2026, OED invested $200,000 to implement business retention strategies, events and engagement to create foot traffic in Rainier Beach as a whole. This proviso is intended to ensure continued investment in Rainier Beach, with a more specific focus to maximize the impact of the investment and reflect community prioritization.

This CBA would impose the following proviso:

"Of the appropriations in the 2027 budget for the Office of Economic Development, $200,000 is appropriated solely to support the activation of vacant commercial spaces at and around the intersection of Rainier Avenue South and South Henderson Street, and for no other purpose."

**ATTACHMENT: No**

# 2027-2028 COUNCIL BUDGET ACTION

V1

**OED-006-A**

Increase OED by $2.5 million GF (2027) to continue the Stabilize, Activate, and Invest Locally (SAIL) Fund

**SPONSORS**

**Eddie Lin**, Debora Juarez, Dan Strauss

**FINANCIAL SUMMARY**

| Fund | 2027 Increase (Decrease) | 2028 Increase (Decrease) |
|---|---|---|
| General Fund | $(2,500,000) | $0 |
| Total Budget Balance Effect | $(2,500,000) | $0 |

**CENTRAL STAFF SUMMARY**

This Council Budget Action (CBA) would increase proposed appropriations to the Office of Economic Development (OED) by $2,500,000 GF in 2027 (one-time) to continue the Stabilize, Activate, and Invest Locally (SAIL) Fund investments in the Chinatown-International District (C-ID) and Lake City.

In the 2026 Adopted Budget, $3 million was appropriated for SAIL fund activities, intended to address cleanliness, safety, and economic revitalization in Little Saigon and Lake City. Activities supported by this fund included community safety coordinators, neighborhood ambassadors, enhanced street cleaning, and funding to support physical environment changes that are proven to prevent crime, and activation initiatives.

This CBA would continue SAIL investments in C-ID for services that began in 2026 but do not have funding to continue, as well as add new funding to build upon 2026 investments, including:
- $320,000 to continue funding for the C-ID Safety Ambassador Program
- $24,000 for additional trash pickup services to continue to the end of 2027
- $70,000 for Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) improvements
- $72,000 for activations at Hoa Mai Park
- $214,000 to repair right-of-way investments in Little Saigon, such as painted crosswalks and signal box wraps
- $800,000 for the C-ID Visioning Group to address community priorities, including small business stabilization, public safety initiatives, building repair, and community health & wellness

Of the $1.5 million appropriated for C-ID SAIL funding in the 2026 Adopted Budget, $608,000 is encumbered for activities in 2027. This CBA would appropriate an additional $1.5 million, for a total of approximately $2.1 million to be spent in 2027.

Approximately $1.35 million of the $1.5 million provided in the 2026 Adopted Budget for Lake City SAIL funding is anticipated to be encumbered for services to be deployed in 2027. This CBA would provide an additional $1 million to Lake City, for a total of $2.35 million to be spent in 2027. The additional $1 million is intended to fund the following:

# 2027-2028 COUNCIL BUDGET ACTION

- $300,000 for lighting and CPTED, which may include but not be limited to 33rd Ave NE CPTED improvements
- $200,000 for additional store front activation, which may include but not be limited to the Coyote North building vacated by Seattle Restored
- $500,000 for Lake City to address community priorities, including but not limited to small business stabilization, public safety initiatives, building repair, and community health & wellness

**ATTACHMENT: No**

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**TRANSACTIONS - ONE-TIME**

| Dept | BSL | BCL | Year | Revenue | Expenditure |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| OED | Business Services | 00100-BO-ED-X1D00 | 2027 | | $2,500,000 |

# 2027-2028 COUNCIL BUDGET ACTION

V1

**OED-007-A**

Proviso $100,000 in OED to support cleaning services in the University District

**SPONSORS**

**Maritza Rivera**, Joy Hollingsworth, Robert Kettle

**FINANCIAL SUMMARY**

| Fund | 2027 Increase (Decrease) | 2028 Increase (Decrease) |
|---|---|---|
| General Fund | $0 | $0 |
| Total Budget Balance Effect | $0 | $0 |

**CENTRAL STAFF SUMMARY**

This CBA would impose a proviso on $100,000 in the Office of Economic Development (OED) to support expanded cleaning services in the University District.

The expanded cleaning services should, at a minimum, include pressure washing and address litter and garbage. This appropriation is intended to be provided to organizations with ties to the neighborhood business community, such as the U District Partnership. If an appropriate organization cannot be identified to provide cleaning services, the department may enter into an agreement with Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) to engage the Clean City program for this purpose.

In the 2027 Proposed Budget, SPU has approximately $17.6 million of appropriations for its Clean City suite of programs, which are GF-supported programs that address issues such as litter, illegal dumping, sharps collection, rodent abatement, and abandoned vehicles citywide.

This CBA would impose the following proviso:

"Of the appropriations in the 2027 budget for the Office of Economic Development, $100,000 is appropriated solely to support cleaning services in the University District, and for no other purpose."

**ATTACHMENT: No**

# 2027-2028 COUNCIL BUDGET ACTION

V1

**OED-008-A**

Increase OED by $150,000 GF (2027) for activations in Ballard

**SPONSORS**

**Dan Strauss**, Robert Kettle, Alexis Mercedes Rinck

**FINANCIAL SUMMARY**

| Fund | 2027 Increase (Decrease) | 2028 Increase (Decrease) |
|---|---|---|
| General Fund | $(150,000) | $0 |
| Total Budget Balance Effect | $(150,000) | $0 |

**CENTRAL STAFF SUMMARY**

This Council Budget Action (CBA) would increase proposed appropriations to the Office of Economic Development (OED) by $150,000 GF in 2027 (one-time) to support neighborhood activations in Ballard, including but not limited to seasonal lighting, installations, decorations, and charitable giving events, to promote increased foot traffic in the business core during winter. This appropriation is intended to be provided to organizations with ties to the neighborhood business community, such as the Ballard Alliance.

**ATTACHMENT: No**

**TRANSACTIONS - ONE-TIME**

| Dept | BSL | BCL | Year | Revenue | Expenditure |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| OED | Business Services | 00100-BO-ED-X1D00 | 2027 | | $150,000 |

# 2027-2028 COUNCIL BUDGET ACTION

V1

**OED-010-A**

Increase OED by $200,000 GF (2027) to support a Maritime Innovation Center

**SPONSORS**

**Robert Kettle**, Eddie Lin, Dan Strauss

**FINANCIAL SUMMARY**

| Fund | 2027 Increase (Decrease) | 2028 Increase (Decrease) |
|---|---|---|
| General Fund | $(200,000) | $0 |
| Total Budget Balance Effect | $(200,000) | $0 |

**CENTRAL STAFF SUMMARY**

This Council Budget Action (CBA) would increase proposed appropriations to the Office of Economic Development (OED) by $200,000 GF in 2027 (one-time) to support the Maritime Innovation Center, intended to be a hub for maritime entrepreneurship, providing shared labs, offices, and demonstration space where startups, researchers, and industry can collaborate.

The 2026 Adopted Budget includes $400,000 for this purpose. In addition, Maritime Blue has secured $33 million from the Port of Seattle to construct the Maritime Innovation Center at Fisherman's Terminal, with the total project cost anticipated to be $37 million.

Any grant agreement shall not be executed until the Executive has negotiated a public benefit package, which could include, but is not limited to:

- Jobs created and maintained;
- In-kind goods and services to the community; and
- Activation and revitalization of the surrounding neighborhood.

**ATTACHMENT: No**

**TRANSACTIONS - ONE-TIME**

| Dept | BSL | BCL | Year | Revenue | Expenditure |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| OED | Business Services | 00100-BO-ED-X1D00 | 2027 | | $200,000 |

# 2027-2028 COUNCIL BUDGET ACTION

V1

**OED-011-A**

Proviso $1.8 million in OED for the Back to Business Fund

**SPONSORS**

**Maritza Rivera**, Rob Saka, Joy Hollingsworth

**FINANCIAL SUMMARY**

| Fund | 2027 Increase (Decrease) | 2028 Increase (Decrease) |
|---|---|---|
| General Fund | $0 | $0 |
| Total Budget Balance Effect | $0 | $0 |

**CENTRAL STAFF SUMMARY**

This CBA would impose a proviso on $1.8 million in the Office of Economic Development (OED) to support the Back to Business Fund at the same level of service for businesses as implemented in 2026.

The 2027-2028 Proposed Budget currently includes $800,000 ongoing for the Back to Business Fund. This proviso would dedicate an additional $1 million for the program. The Back to Business Fund, launched in August 2025, supports small businesses impacted by vandalism and property damage. In 2027 the program will provide funding in on two tracks: the Storefront Repair Fund and Storefront Security Fund. The Storefront Repair Fund provides grants to businesses to reimburse the cost for fixing damages from vandalism or other property damage. The Storefront Security Fund provides grants to businesses to reimburse the cost for improving storefront security.

This CBA would impose the following proviso:

"Of the appropriations in the 2027 budget for the Office of Economic Development, $1,800,000 is appropriated solely for the Back to Business Fund, and for no other purpose."

**ATTACHMENT: No**

# 2027-2028 COUNCIL BUDGET ACTION

V1

**OED-012-A**

Increase OED by $150,000 GF (2027) to support technical assistance for businesses

**SPONSORS**

**Joy Hollingsworth**, Rob Saka, Debora Juarez

**FINANCIAL SUMMARY**

| Fund | 2027 Increase (Decrease) | 2028 Increase (Decrease) |
|---|---|---|
| General Fund | $(150,000) | $0 |
| Total Budget Balance Effect | $(150,000) | $0 |

**CENTRAL STAFF SUMMARY**

This Council Budget Action (CBA) would increase proposed appropriations to the Office of Economic Development (OED) by $150,000 GF (one-time) to support an organization that provides programming to support the preservation of businesses in communities furthest from economic prosperity and opportunities, such as Tabor 100. This CBA is intended to provide such businesses with free, personalized technical support for business owners, guidance about city contracting, and other related assistance to help create sustainable businesses.

Tabor 100 currently receives $200,000 annually for the Liberty Project, a partnership with the University of Washington and Seattle University (each receiving $150,000) to support Women and Minority Owned Small Businesses (WMBEs) and other small businesses from underserved communities with business consulting and strategy services, finance and accounting services, marketing services, technology services, and contract bid preparation. OED also dedicates an additional $800,000 annually for small business technical assistance programs. This CBA is intended to add funding to target further investments for communities experiencing economic disparities.

**ATTACHMENT: No**

**TRANSACTIONS - ONE-TIME**

| Dept | BSL | BCL | Year | Revenue | Expenditure |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| OED | Business Services | 00100-BO-ED-X1D00 | 2027 | | $150,000 |

# 2027-2028 COUNCIL BUDGET ACTION

V1

**OED-013-A**

Increase OED by $20,000 GF (2027) for a Music Laureate pilot program

**SPONSORS**

**Eddie Lin**, Joy Hollingsworth, Alexis Mercedes Rinck

**FINANCIAL SUMMARY**

| Fund | 2027 Increase (Decrease) | 2028 Increase (Decrease) |
|---|---|---|
| General Fund | $(20,000) | $0 |
| Total Budget Balance Effect | $(20,000) | $0 |

**CENTRAL STAFF SUMMARY**

This Council Budget Action (CBA) would increase proposed appropriations to the Office of Economic Development (OED) by $20,000 GF in 2027 (one-time) to support the development of a Music Laureate pilot program. The Seattle Music Commission, which is administered by OED, would help design and implement the pilot.

Since 2015, the Office of Arts and Culture has managed the Civic Poet program, which selects a Poet Laureate (or Civic Poet) for the City of Seattle every two years. A Music Laureate program would be intended to highlight and celebrate Seattle musicians in the same way the Civic Poet program celebrates the city's literary arts community.

**ATTACHMENT: No**

**TRANSACTIONS - ONE-TIME**

| Dept | BSL | BCL | Year | Revenue | Expenditure |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| OED | Business Services | 00100-BO-ED-X1D00 | 2027 | | $20,000 |

SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL

# 2027 STATEMENT OF LEGISLATIVE INTENT

V1

**OED-014S-A**

Request that OED provide an assessment of insurance costs in Seattle for small businesses, and develop recommendations for City action

**SPONSORS**

**Dionne Foster**, Rob Saka, Robert Kettle

**CENTRAL STAFF SUMMARY**

This Statement of Legislative Intent (SLI) requests that the Office of Economic Development (OED) provide an assessment of the costs of commercial general liability insurance and commercial property insurance in Seattle for small businesses, and develop recommendations for City action that could reduce these costs for businesses. The assessment should include, at a minimum:

- Average premium costs for businesses, differentiated by coverage limits, business size, industry, neighborhood, and other factors that could affect costs;
- Historical trends in premium costs;
- Factors that influence premium increases, including but not limited to local market forces, political environment, City policies, infrastructure conditions;
- Factors that could impact premium reductions;
- Recommendations for City actions that could reduce insurance costs for businesses; and
- A feasibility study exploring the creation of a City-backed insurance pool, to stabilize or reduce insurance costs for businesses.

In developing this assessment, Council requests that OED consult with experts in the insurance industry, the Washington State Office of the Insurance Commissioner, the Washington State Department of Commerce, and organizations that work closely with the industries and neighborhoods most impacted by high insurance premiums.

**Responsible Council Committee(s):** Human Services, Labor, & Economic Development

**DUE DATE:** August 2, 2027

SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL

# 2027 STATEMENT OF LEGISLATIVE INTENT

V1

**OED-015S-A**

Request that OED report on North Delridge grocery access

**SPONSORS**

**Rob Saka**, Joy Hollingsworth, Maritza Rivera

**CENTRAL STAFF SUMMARY**

This Statement of Legislative Intent (SLI) would request that the North Delridge neighborhood be studied in a market analysis of grocery store demand and feasibility that is currently being completed by the Office of Economic Development (OED) and consultants from the Independent Grocers Alliance (IGA). In 2026, OED contracted with IGA for $808,500 (JumpStart Fund) for market analysis of grocery store viability and attraction in eight Seattle neighborhoods with limited food access and technical assistance for ten existing independent grocery stores. Deliverables for this analysis are expected by the end of 2027.

The analysis should build from previous work completed per 2025 SLI OPCD-003S-A and identify viable sites and infrastructure barriers, evaluate possible incentives, and provide an implementation roadmap for attracting a full-service grocer to the neighborhood.

The market analysis would include the following elements, at a minimum:
1. Market and community validation;
2. A candidate site inventory evaluating at least three viable sites or development opportunities, including publicly controlled, privately owned, and Sound Transit-related properties;
3. Documented outreach; and
4. An implementation roadmap, timeline with deadline, and measurable outcomes.

The analysis in response to this SLI must recommend a specific executable path or clearly explain why no existing grocery model is currently viable, and identify the decisions or investments needed to change that conclusion.

**Responsible Council Committee(s):** Human Services, Labor, & Economic Development

**DUE DATE:** July 31, 2027

# 2027-2028 COUNCIL BUDGET ACTION

V1

**OED-016-A**

Increase OED by $200,000 GF (2027) for sports events promotion

**SPONSORS**

**Rob Saka**, Joy Hollingsworth, Maritza Rivera

**FINANCIAL SUMMARY**

| Fund | 2027 Increase (Decrease) | 2028 Increase (Decrease) |
|---|---|---|
| General Fund | $(200,000) | $0 |
| Total Budget Balance Effect | $(200,000) | $0 |

**CENTRAL STAFF SUMMARY**

This CBA would increase proposed appropriations to the Office of Economic Development (OED) by $200,000 GF in 2027 (one-time) to support the efforts of local organizations such as the Seattle Sports Commission to attract and promote sporting events and activations in Seattle beneficial to tourism, small businesses, and civic well-being. The increased appropriation is intended to uplift semi-professional sports in addition to other sports in the broader local sports ecosystem.

**ATTACHMENT: No**

**TRANSACTIONS - ONE-TIME**

| Dept | BSL | BCL | Year | Revenue | Expenditure |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| OED | Leadership and Administration | 00100-BO-ED-ADMIN | 2027 | | $200,000 |

# 2027-2028 COUNCIL BUDGET ACTION

V1

**OED-017-A**

Increase OED by $100,000 GF (2027) for Interbay Sports District branding

**SPONSORS**

**Robert Kettle**, Joy Hollingsworth, Dan Strauss

**FINANCIAL SUMMARY**

| Fund | 2027 Increase (Decrease) | 2028 Increase (Decrease) |
|---|---|---|
| General Fund | $(100,000) | $0 |
| Total Budget Balance Effect | $(100,000) | $0 |

**CENTRAL STAFF SUMMARY**

This Council Budget Action (CBA) would increase proposed appropriations to the Office of Economic Development (OED) by $100,000 GF (one-time) to support placemaking installations and branding for an "Interbay Sports District" in the Interbay neighborhood. The sports represented in this district are: United Soccer League soccer, youth soccer, baseball, youth football, basketball, and pickleball. This funding is intended to support items such as pole banners, sidewalk painting, and murals. These activities are estimated to cost $375,000, of which $275,000 has been secured from other sources. This appropriation is intended to be provided to an organization with ties to the neighborhood business community, such as the Magnolia Chamber of Commerce.

**ATTACHMENT: No**

**TRANSACTIONS - ONE-TIME**

| Dept | BSL | BCL | Year | Revenue | Expenditure |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| OED | Business Services | 00100-BO-ED-X1D00 | 2027 | | $100,000 |