

Office of Hearing Examiner

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<http://www.seattle.gov/examiner/>

Department Overview

The Office of Hearing Examiner is Seattle's quasi-judicial forum for reviewing factual and legal issues raised by the application of City Code requirements to specific people or property. As authorized by the Seattle Municipal Code, the office conducts hearings and decides appeals in cases where members of the public disagree with a decision made by a City agency. Many of the matters appealed to the Hearing Examiner relate to land use and environmental permit decisions and interpretations made by the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections. The Hearing Examiner also hears appeals in many other subject areas, and makes recommendations to the City Council on rezone petitions, major institution master plans, and other Council land-use actions.

The Hearing Examiner is appointed by the City Council, and Deputy Hearing Examiners are appointed by the Hearing Examiner. Examiners handle all pre-hearing matters, regulate the conduct of hearings, and prepare decisions and recommendations based upon the hearing record and applicable law. The Seattle Municipal Code requires all examiners to be attorneys with training and experience in administrative hearings. The Hearing Examiner also manages an executive assistant to oversee the administrative areas of the office, a legal assistant to assist with hearings and decision preparation, and an administrative specialist to support all other office positions and provide information to the public.

Budget Snapshot

	2020 Actuals	2021 Adopted	2022 Adopted
Department Support			
General Fund Support	913,728	1,061,517	1,078,071
Total Operations	913,728	1,061,517	1,078,071
Total Appropriations	913,728	1,061,517	1,078,071
Full-Time Equivalent Total*	5.00	5.00	5.00

** FTE totals are provided for informational purposes only. Changes in FTEs resulting from City Council or Human Resources Director actions outside of the budget process may not be detailed here*

Budget Overview

The 2022 Adopted Budget maintains support to the Office of Hearing Examiner (HXM) and preserves the services provided by the Hearing Examiner to members of the public and the City Council. Technical adjustments have been made to bring the adopted budget into alignment with an Annual Wage Increase, and other citywide adjustments to internal service costs.

Office of Hearing Examiner

Incremental Budget Changes

Office of Hearing Examiner

	Dollars	FTE
2021 Adopted Budget	1,061,517	5.00
Baseline		
Citywide Adjustments for Standard Cost Changes	16,554	-
Total Incremental Changes	\$16,554	-
Total 2022 Adopted Budget	\$1,078,071	5.00

Description of Incremental Budget Changes

Baseline

Citywide Adjustments for Standard Cost Changes

Expenditures \$16,554

Citywide technical adjustments made in the baseline phase reflect changes to internal services costs, including rates from the Department of Finance & Administrative Services, Seattle Information Technology Department, Seattle Department of Human Resources, and for healthcare, retirement and industrial insurance charges for the department. These adjustments reflect initial assumptions about these costs and inflators early in the budget process.

Expenditure Overview

	2020 Actuals	2021 Adopted	2022 Adopted
Appropriations			
HXM - BO-HX-V1X00 - Office of the Hearing Examiner			
00100 - General Fund	913,728	1,061,517	1,078,071
Total for BSL: BO-HX-V1X00	913,728	1,061,517	1,078,071
Department Total	913,728	1,061,517	1,078,071
Department Full-Time Equivalents Total*	5.00	5.00	5.00

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Budget Summary by Fund Office of Hearing Examiner

	2020 Actuals	2021 Adopted	2022 Adopted
00100 - General Fund	913,728	1,061,517	1,078,071
Budget Totals for HXM	913,728	1,061,517	1,078,071

Appropriations by Budget Summary Level and Program

HXM - BO-HX-V1X00 - Office of the Hearing Examiner

The purpose of the Office of Hearing Examiner Budget Summary Level is to conduct fair and impartial hearings in all subject areas where the Seattle Municipal Code grants authority to do so (there are currently more than 75 subject areas) and to issue decisions and recommendations consistent with applicable law.

Program Expenditures	2020 Actuals	2021 Adopted	2022 Adopted
Office of the Hearing Examiner	913,728	1,061,517	1,078,071
Total	913,728	1,061,517	1,078,071
Full-time Equivalents Total*	5.00	5.00	5.00

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