

## MEMO

To: Mayor Samuelson, City Council  
From: Planning Department  
Date: July 18, 2011

**Re: Hearings Examiner Ordinance**

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The hearings examiner ordinance includes the following details:

- The decision of the hearings examiner on quasi-judicial matters would be the final decision of the City and appealable only to superior court in accordance with the Land Use Petitions Act (LUPA)
- The hearings examiner would hear appeals of administrative interpretations of the code including SEPA threshold determinations
- The costs of the hearing examiner would be transferred to the applicants or in the case of appeals, the appellants.
- Contract re-zones, to the extent they are authorized by the existing and future development code would be handled by the PAB with a recommendation to the City Council for final approval.

The selection committee is currently in the process of reviewing the hearings examiner proposals to provide a recommendation to the Council. The City received five proposals. The fee schedule will also have to be amended to fund the work of the hearings examiner.