



City of Mercer Island Leadership Team



Julie Underwood
City Manager



Chip Corder
Asst. City Manager/
Finance Director



Kirsten Taylor
Assistant City Manager



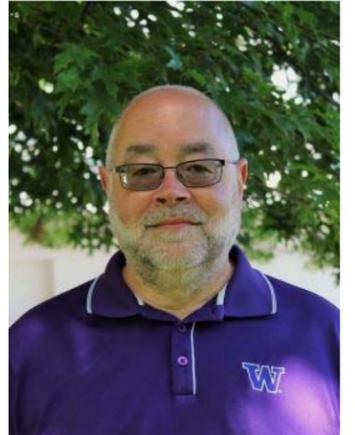
Jason Kintner
Public Works Director



Ed Holmes
Police Chief



Steve Heitman
Fire Chief



Scott Greenberg
Development Services
Director



Kryss Segle
Human Resources
Director



Bruce Fletcher
Parks & Recreation
Director



Cindy Goodwin
Youth & Family
Services Director



Kari Sand
City Attorney



Mike Kaser
Information Services
Director



Ross Freeman
Sustainability &
Communications Mgr



Ali Spietz
City Clerk

Julie Underwood

City Manager

Julie was hired in January 2017 as Mercer Island's sixth City Manager and she is the first woman and person of color to serve in the position. She is also an Island resident, and lives on the south end with her husband and three children.

Prior to Mercer Island, Julie was the Assistant City Manager of Daly City, California, a suburb of San Francisco, since March 2014. Prior to Daly City, from February 2011 until October 2013, Julie was the City Manager for the City of Shoreline, Washington. Julie also served as Shoreline's Assistant City Manager since July 2002. Before moving to the Pacific Northwest, Julie was the Assistant to the City Manager for the City of Rockville, Maryland, a suburb of Washington, DC.

Julie has a Master's in Public Administration from Virginia Tech and a BA from George Mason University and is a Credentialed Manager with the International City-County Management Association (ICMA).

Julie has served on the boards of the Washington City/County Management Association, the Municipal Research & Services Center Board of Washington, Metropolitan Association of Local Government Assistants, American Society of Public Administration Maryland Chapter, was a charter board member of League of Women in Government, and served as president of the Shoreline Breakfast Rotary Club. Julie is a member of ICMA, Women Leading Government, and a member of Engaging Local Government Leaders Network (ELGL).

With nearly 20 years of local government management experience, Julie continues to be passionate about public service, embracing change and innovation, engaging our community in solving problems, and building a team-oriented workforce that delivers results. Julie believes in being a "servant leader," guided by core values as demonstrated by her [personal values statement](#).

Julie is excited to work for Mercer Island, as it provides unique professional challenges, has an active and engaged community, and has a close, committed team. In addition, the community is dedicated to its outstanding schools, expansive parks, environmental sustainability, and its special quality of life.

Follow Julie on Twitter at @UnderwoodJulie or Facebook at Julie.thuy.underwood

Address & Contact Information

Mercer Island City Hall
9611 SE 36th Street
Mercer Island, WA 98040

Phone: (206) 275-7660

E-mail address: julie.underwood@mercergov.org



City Manager Values and Expectations

March 2017

My overarching style is characterized as being a “servant leader.” Robert Greenleaf said, “Good leaders must first become good servants.” My drive to lead is motivated by my desire to serve others—it is my life’s purpose.

I believe that I am responsible for creating and communicating a bold direction for our organization, achieving the Council’s goals, fulfilling the community’s vision, and delivering exceptional services. But I cannot do this by myself: I need you. I need your leadership, your ideas, your commitment, and your support.

Here is what I value, along with the expectations that I have of you:

Trust in Democracy

One of the reasons that I love working in local government is because it’s where we see democracy at its best. Being an elected official today is harder than it’s ever been – those who commit to serve their community in this special way deserve our complete support. Our responsibility is to provide our best professional judgment—all alternatives need to be workable, not just the alternative recommended. And when it’s all said and done, it’s their decision—they are the elected leaders of our community and we must commit fully to their will and direction.

Serving with Passion

I believe every employee plays a vital part in shaping what our residents think about their city. From answering a citizen’s phone call to plowing our streets to paying our contractors, everything matters. In addition, *how* we deliver our services is just as important as *what* we’re delivering. It all matters. I see the importance of your work and believe your contributions matter. We have the awesome ability to help our residents fall in love with their city! Every interaction is an opportunity to inspire a positive experience with their government. Serving our community with relentless passion builds trust, goodwill, and pride.

The City is One Team

I believe we must act on behalf of the entire organization. We must see beyond department and division boundaries and act for the good of the whole. Abraham Lincoln said, “A house divided against itself cannot stand.” Divisiveness does not serve our community. We must strive toward collective values and toward new ways of working together.

Challenge, but Be Unified

While I expect us to function as one collective team, I do not expect us to agree when we really do not agree. I expect you to respectfully challenge, even when doing so is uncomfortable or exhausting. Value the voice of a devil’s advocate—this helps to test the strength of opposing viewpoints. Do not compromise for the sake of social cohesion; compromise if it’s the right thing to do. When an issue is put on the table, you are expected to engage in the discussion, and once a decision is determined, then we are unified behind it.

Uncompromisingly High Standards and Delivering Results

I expect the best from myself and want others to live to a high standard as well. As a leader, it is important to benchmark ourselves and our teams against the best. Thinking small is a self-fulfilling prophecy - we do not settle for “good enough.” From time to time, we will fall short and we will have setbacks (who doesn’t) and when that happens (and it will), we must admit our mistakes, learn from them, rise to the occasion, and push on.

Bias for Action

I have a strong bias for action. Do not overcomplicate what needs to be done. If you see a need, take the initiative, solve the problem, make it happen. I believe that everyone has the ability to lead, to act, to serve, but not everyone has the will. Choose to exercise your will to act.

Listen, Foster Collaboration, and Build Trust

While I have a bias for action, I also want an outcome that takes into account the input and perspective of others. We must consult with our employees and our community on matters that impact them. I insist on it. Trust is built when others believe we're genuinely listening to their points of view. We must partner with the community and staff to solve problems, to implement solutions, and to create the exceptional community and organization they deserve.

Communication is a Priority

Communicating is a priority for me – I like to pass along information and like it when it's reciprocated. When we feel in the loop and see information sharing happening, we're more engaged and vested in the team. I recognize that this can be a challenge to do, especially with our demanding workloads. Nevertheless, let's strive to think about, "who else needs to know this, and who else can benefit from what I know."

Open to Influence and Change

Leaders do not have all of the answers. Solutions can come from anyone: staff, Council, our community. I welcome different perspectives and expect you to as well. Let's search and explore opportunities to innovate, grow and raise the bar. I always want to find ways to do things better. How we've always done it isn't always the best course of action. Changing just to change isn't always good either. It's about being adaptive, being open to new ideas, and admitting that good ideas are not reserved for leaders alone.

Welcome Feedback and Exercise Self-awareness

It is so important to recognize our own strengths, limitations, values and motives. I am constantly striving to become more self-aware and to increase my propensity for self-reflection and thoughtfulness. It is not easy. It takes considerable effort. In addition, I want us to have the courage to hear the truth and to be honest with ourselves. Being open to hearing from others about the impact of our behavior can improve our ability to work with others more effectively and our overall performance.

Create a Positive Work Environment

Upbeat moods, research verifies, help people feel more optimistic about their ability to achieve a goal, enhance productivity, creativity, and decision-making skills, and can make a team more cohesive. Let's celebrate successes and foster a positive work culture. Having a positive attitude makes me want to work with you.

Life-Work Balance and Integration

I'll admit, I struggle with life-work balance and integration. I truly do enjoy my work—I feel so blessed that I have a job where I can make a meaningful difference. With that said, I have come to appreciate what my family gives me: perspective, stability, and joy. They are my top priority and I treasure them. While I need you to be all in while at work, I also need you to take time to pause, to refresh, and to enjoy family, friends, and personal interests.

I am so fortunate to be your city manager. I am reminded daily of how meaningful our work is. In partnership with our community, we are here to do great things. William James said, "Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does."

Chip Corder

Finance Director/Assistant City Manager

Chip has served as the Assistant City Manager for the City of Mercer Island since 2013, overseeing the Public Works Department, Information & Geographic Services Department, Facilities Maintenance Division, and the Capital Improvement Program, and as the Finance Director since 2005. Previously, he worked for the City of Kirkland, Washington for 10 years as a Financial Analyst, a Senior Financial Analyst, and as the Financial Planning Manager. Prior to Kirkland, Chip worked for the City of Bainbridge Island, Washington for four years as the Accounting Manager.

Education

Bachelor of Science in Accounting from Brigham Young University
Master of Public Administration from Brigham Young University

Professional Memberships and Affiliations

GFOA - Government Finance Officers Association
WFOA - Washington Finance Officers Association
PSFOA - Puget Sound Finance Officers Association

What do you enjoy most about leading your department?

I love leading a department of bright, capable, and dedicated people who are primarily focused on supporting other departments, in terms of developing operational and capital budgets, addressing funding challenges, and paying bills, and overseeing the City's financial health, in terms of collecting revenues and monitoring, reporting on, and forecasting revenues and expenditures.

What do you enjoy most about working for the City of Mercer Island?

I love working for a small organization that is nimble, customer service focused, cost conscious, and results oriented and that cultivates an employee culture that is connected across departments, that is committed to being a good public steward, and that is determined to make a positive difference in the lives of Mercer Island residents.

Address & Contact Information

Mercer Island City Hall
9611 SE 36th Street
Mercer Island, WA 98040

Phone: (206) 275-7780

E-mail address: chip.corder@mercergov.org



Kirsten Taylor

Assistant City Manager

Kirsten has served as Assistant City Manager since November of 2013. Kirsten was first hired at the City in 1987 as a Contracts Manager/ Thrift Shop Volunteer Manager/ Administrative Assistant in the Youth Services Department, where she spent her first 9 years working extensively with members of the community. Since that time, Kirsten has worked in or done special projects for each department of the City. A long assignment in the Development Service Group department provided the opportunity for thoroughly learning about both private and public development on Mercer Island. Kirsten spent three years as Administrative Services Manager at the City of Covington, returning to the City in 2010. Prior to working for Mercer Island, she worked as a mental health counselor focusing on teens and families.

Kirsten enjoys travel and learning about other cultures. Kirsten has two daughters in graduate school programs and starting their professional careers.

Education

Bachelor of Arts, Political Science, Gonzaga University
Masters of Counseling Psychology, Gonzaga University

Professional Memberships and Affiliations

ICMA - International City Managers Association
WCCMA - Washington City/County Management Association
Mercer Island Sister City Association, Board of Directors Member

What do you enjoy most about leading your department?

Working with smart, skilled and creative staff to serve the Mercer Island community is a privilege. Public service is challenging and rewarding, and the City Manager's staff are dedicated to serving this community.

What do you enjoy most about working for the City of Mercer Island?

Mercer Island is a community filled with interesting and passionate citizens. Serving this community requires staff to bring their "A" game to work on a daily basis. It is challenging and rewarding to work on projects that make a difference on behalf of the community.

Address & Contact Information

Mercer Island City Hall
9611 SE 36th Street
Mercer Island, WA 98106

Phone: (206) 275-7661

E-mail address: kirsten.taylor@mercergov.org



Jason Kintner

Public Works Director

Jason has served as Mercer Island's Public Works Director since September of 2015. He has been with the City since 2005, serving in various roles including, Parks Maintenance Team Member and Parks Superintendent. Prior to this, Mr. Kintner served as a Management Assistant with the City of Long Beach, California. In his spare time, Jason enjoys spending time with his family and is an avid sports fan supporting local teams!

Education

Bachelor of Arts, History, George Fox University
Master of Public Administration, Seattle University

Certifications

Certified Arborist - International Society of Arboriculture (ISA)

Professional Memberships and Affiliations

APWA - American Public Works Association
WEF - Water Environment Federation
ISA International Society of Arboriculture

What do you enjoy most about leading your department?

It's the people that make this a great place to work! I enjoy working with a dedicated team that takes great pride in providing high quality services. From the streets and sidewalks, to the water that comes from the tap or the construction of new infrastructure, Public Works provides subtle but essential services for our community. Our team is passionate and works hard to build relationships that have a positive difference in the community.

What do you enjoy most about working for the City of Mercer Island?

I enjoy the opportunity to improve the quality of life for our community. I enjoy finding solutions to complex problems that have a positive impact. As a small organization, I find joy in the diversity of projects and working with a collaborative group of dedicated people working towards a common goal. It is rewarding working for a community that is passionate and strives to improve our quality of life.

Address & Contact Information

Public Works Building
9601 SE 36th Street
Mercer Island, WA 98040

Phone: (206) 275-7802

E-mail address: jason.kintner@mercergov.org



Ed Holmes

Police Chief

Ed Holmes began his law enforcement career in 1994 with the Mercer Island Police Department. He worked through the ranks in a variety of assignments to include serving as a Patrol Officer, School Resource Officer, Detective, Patrol Sergeant, Personnel and Training Sergeant, Special Operations Team member, Operations Commander, and in 2006 he was appointed to serve as the Chief of Police. Prior to working for Mercer Island he worked as a counselor for incarcerated youth.

Education

Bachelor of Arts, Seattle Pacific University
Teaching Certificate, Seattle Pacific University
Master of Public Administration from Seattle University

Professional Memberships and Affiliations

Mercer Island Rotary Club
King County Police Chiefs' and Sheriff's Association (Current Chair)
WASPC - Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (Past President)
Law Administrators of Washington
PERF - Police Executive Research Forum
SACOP - State Association of Chiefs of Police (WASPC Representative)
IACP - International Association of Chiefs of Police



What do you enjoy most about leading your department?

I am very fortunate to lead a department of such highly qualified and dedicated public servants. I enjoy being part of a team that focuses on community safety, emergency preparedness, community outreach, and ensuring a high quality of life for Island residents. I also appreciate the commitment our officers make to ensuring everyone is treated with dignity and respect.

What do you enjoy most about working for the City of Mercer Island?

Despite being situated in the middle of a large urban area, Mercer Island continues to enjoy a very low crime rate. Our low crime rate is due in part to the proactive stance our officers take on keeping this community safe, and the strong partnerships we have with our community. We have many wonderful residents who are happy to spend their time and resources to help us in our efforts to keep everyone safe and prepared for emergencies. We also have strong relationships with the other City Departments who help us effectively address safety concerns. Collectively, our efforts help to keep this one of the safest communities in the region.

Address & Contact Information

Mercer Island City Hall
9611 SE 36th Street
Mercer Island, WA 98040

Phone: (206) 275-7911

E-mail address: ed.holmes@mercergov.org

Steve Heitman

Fire Chief

Steve Heitman is the Fire Chief for the Mercer Island Fire Department, where he started his fire service career in 2001 as a Firefighter. He worked his way up through the ranks of MIFD and was promoted to the position of Deputy Chief in 2008, which he held until being promoted to Fire Chief in 2014. In addition, he is a military veteran, serving with the 2nd Ranger Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment from 1987-1990, and was honorably discharged with the rank of sergeant. He has been married to his wife Darla for 21 years and has three children ages 17, 15, and 11.

Education

Master's Degree, National Security Studies, HDS Naval Post-Graduate School

Bachelor's Degree, Public Safety Administration, Grand Canyon University

Associate of Arts and Sciences, Fire Officer Development, Bellevue Community College

Associate of Applied Science, Dental Hygiene, Clark College

Associate of Arts and Sciences, Bellevue Community College



Certifications

EFO - Executive Fire Officer, National Fire Academy

CFO - Chief Fire Officer, Center for Public Safety Excellence

EMT - Emergency Medical Technician, King County EMS

CHPP - Certified Homeland Protection Professional, National Domestic Preparedness Coalition

CLRP - Certified Labor Relations Professional, National Public Employee Labor Relations Assoc.

NIMS - National Incident Management System, ICS Courses: 100, 200, 300, 400, 700, 800, & 907

ISO - Incident Safety Officer, National Fire Academy

Professional Memberships and Affiliations

IAFC - International Association of Fire Chiefs

NSEFO - National Society of Executive Fire Officers

IFE - International Fire Engineers

NFPA - National Fire Protection Association

Alpha Chi National College Honor Scholarship Society

What do you enjoy most about leading your department?

I enjoy leading an organization of such highly skilled people that truly make a difference in the community and the region. No two days are ever the same as we are constantly faced with new challenges and opportunities. We are well respected within the City and by other fire departments in the region. MIFD has the highest level of knowledge, skills, and abilities in the history of the department, and each member strives for continual improvement. Each member of the organization is dedicated to our success, and I get to witness and participate in this every day.

What do you enjoy most about working for the City of Mercer Island?

I enjoy getting to work with other department Directors, who are professionals in their area of expertise. There is a constant sense of teamwork as we all work to the success of the City of Mercer Island. The City Manager has brought a true sense of TEAM to the entire organization and supports every one of us. The City of Mercer Island is a caring and compassionate employer that takes care of its staff.

Address & Contact Information

Fire Station 91
3030 78th Avenue SE
Mercer Island, WA 98040

Phone: (206) 275-7960

E-mail address: steve.heitman@mercergov.org

Scott Greenberg

Development Services Group Director

Scott is the Development Services Group Director. He has lived in the Puget Sound region since 1974, including 9 years on Mercer Island. He has 33 years of public sector planning and leadership experience working for five suburban cities (Mercer Island twice) and 7 years of private consulting work. When he lived in Issaquah, Scott served as a City Council member and Chairperson of the Planning Policy Commission, and Chairperson of the ARCH Citizens Advisory Board.

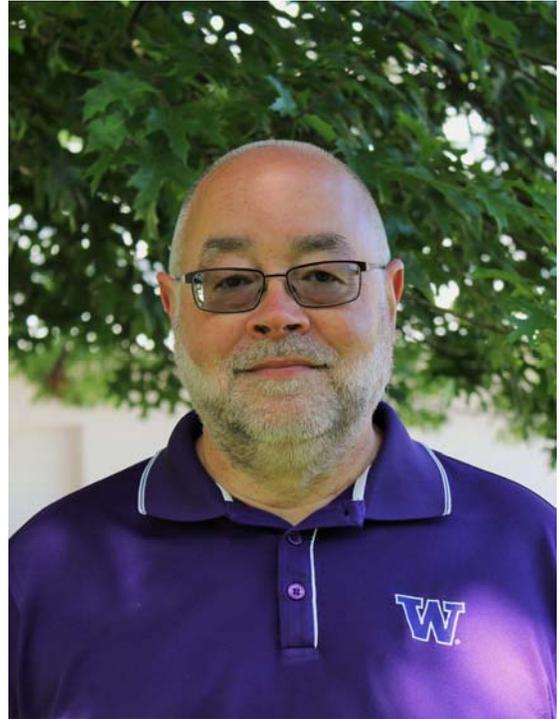
In his spare time, Scott enjoys making wine and spending time with his wife Monica, two adult children and three grandchildren.

Education:

Bachelors and Masters Degrees in Urban Planning, University of Washington

Professional Organizations:

APA - American Planning Association (Past Washington State Chapter President)
Washington City/County Planning Directors Association
Mercer Island Rotary Club



What do you enjoy most about leading your department?

It is rewarding to lead the very professional and passionate staff in the Development Services Group. The different disciplines in DSG work together seamlessly to review permit applications, help solve problems, assist customers and serve the community.

What do you enjoy most about working for the City of Mercer Island?

Islanders are passionate and educated about the community and government, leading to a high level of community engagement not seen in other cities. An involved community leads to better policy decisions than an apathetic community. I also appreciate the City's commitment to excellence and support of technology to improve our government services.

Address & Contact Information

Mercer Island City Hall
9611 SE 36th Street
Mercer Island, WA 98040

Phone: (206) 275-7706

E-mail address: scott.greenberg@mercergov.org

Kryss Segle

Human Resources Director

Kryss has worked for the City of Mercer Island for over 30 years, serving as the City's Human Resources Director since 2006. Kryss began her career with the City as a part-time temporary employee in 1984, and has since worked in the departments of Finance and the Development Services Group before moving to the Human Resources Department.

Kryss speaks on a variety of HR related topics, including performance management, leadership, customer service delivery, and resume and interview skill building. In her spare time, Kryss enjoys training for and participating in various obstacle course races and spending time with her two grown sons.

Education

Certification in Human Resources Management, Seattle Pacific University

Certifications

CEBS - Certified Employee Benefits Specialist
PHR - Professional in Human Resources
SPHR - Senior Professional in Human Resources
Certified Mediator - FMCS Institute for Conflict Management



Professional Memberships and Affiliations

Washington State Public Employers Labor Relations Association
National Public Employers Labor Relations Association
Society of Human Resources Management
International Personnel Management Association

What do you enjoy most about leading your department?

I have the best job because I have an incredible team! It's all the people that work for the City that make it such a great place to work. Our team prides itself on delivering the highest level of customer service to our employees. Our goal is to make this work environment positive, productive, and fun when appropriate. We believe that our greatest asset are the people who work here. When people are happy doing their jobs, they do their best work.

What do you enjoy most about working for the City of Mercer Island?

It's the people! I enjoy that I work with smart, talented, committed people who truly want to make a positive difference in the work they do for this community. Our four Citywide values are: 1) High Ethical Standards; 2) Outstanding Customer Service; 3) Teamwork; and 4) Leadership Development. It's clear that these are the values that drive our staff to do their best work.

Address & Contact Information

Mercer Island City Hall
9611 SE 36th Street
Mercer Island, WA 98040

Phone: (206) 275-7792

E-mail address: kryss.segler@mercergov.org

Bruce Fletcher

Parks and Recreation Director

Bruce has been in the Parks and Recreation profession for the past 33 years. He has held various positions including the Recreation Manager for the City of Olympia, the Director for the City of Tukwila and has been the Director for Mercer Island Parks and Recreation for the past 7 years. In his time away from the office, Bruce enjoys hiking, skiing and traveling with his family. As the Parks and Recreation Director, Bruce is proud to work hard for his community, but also enjoys his time participating in various recreational events and practices a healthy work/life balance.

Education

Bachelor of Arts in Physical Education and Recreation from Central Washington University

Professional Memberships and Affiliations

WRPA - Washington Recreation and Park Association (Past President)

Mercer Island Rotary (Past President)

What do you enjoy most about leading your department?

It's all about the people! We are fortunate to have so many qualified P&R professionals working for the City. I really enjoy our teamwork approach to provide quality programs, facilities, and parks to our residents and guests.

What do you enjoy most about working for the City of Mercer Island?

It's an honor to be the Director of Parks and Recreation to oversee our recreational activities and events, provide a safe and quality community center, and to maintain and protect our 460 acres of parks, open spaces and 30 miles of trails. When I visit our parks and events, it's always a thrill to see so many smiling Islanders enjoying the high quality of life on Mercer Island.

Address & Contact Information

Luther Burbank Admin Building
2040 84th Avenue SE
Mercer Island, WA 98040

Phone: (206) 275-7870

E-mail address: bruce.fletcher@mercergov.org



Cynthia Goodwin

MIYFS Director

Cynthia Goodwin, MSW, has served as the Director for the Department of Youth and Family Services (YFS) since 2002. Prior to working with the City, Ms. Goodwin worked in non-profit organizations focusing on residential and milieu treatment (1987- 1995) and community-based treatment and prevention (1995- 2002). Her professional background includes evidence based community social work and organization administration. At YFS, Ms. Goodwin's focus has been working to address current and emerging needs of the local community within the framework of evidenced-based and trauma-informed treatment strategies.

Education

Bachelor of Arts, The Evergreen State College
Masters of Social Work, Arizona State University

Professional Memberships and Affiliations

Eastside Human Services Work Group
Washington State Children's Alliance
King County Youth and Family Services Consortium



What do you enjoy most about leading your department?

I enjoy working with the committed and dedicated department staff. I enjoy facilitating our on-going focus on service provision that reflects community need and composition with a seasoned staff providing high quality services within a positive work environment.

What do you enjoy most about working for the City of Mercer Island?

The excellent teamwork, collaboration, and synergy among the various City Departments is most enjoyable and creates a genuinely positive work and supportive environment. As a full-service municipal corporation, the City of Mercer Island is comprised of approximately 200 full-time employees spread across over 10 different departments to collectively deliver essential and extraordinary programs and services to residents and visitors alike. The City's employees are dedicated and caring, and together we strive to leverage limited resources in order to maintain Mercer Island's reputation as a desirable community in which to live, work and play.

She also actively enjoys working with engaged citizens who care deeply about their community. She particularly enjoys working with parents and youth to develop strategies to improve youth well-being.

Address & Contact Information

Luther Burbank Admin Building
2040 84th Avenue SE
Mercer Island, WA 98040

Phone: (206) 275-7749

E-mail address: cindy.goodwin@mercergov.org

Kari Sand **City Attorney**

Kari Sand has served as Mercer Island's City Attorney since May of 2015. Prior to joining Mercer Island, Kari served as a City Attorney and Assistant City Attorney for numerous Puget Sound cities, including most recently the cities of Medina and Sammamish, while working for the Kenyon Disend, PLLC municipal law firm. Prior to joining that firm in 2005, Kari served as an Assistant City Attorney for the City of Tacoma for six years and as an associate attorney for two years at a general civil practice firm in Tacoma. Spanning nearly twenty years, her practice has focused on all areas of municipal law, with an emphasis on land use, condemnation, fair housing and anti-discrimination laws, public bidding, public disclosure, local taxation and tax litigation, and employment and labor law matters.

In her spare time, Kari enjoys travel, gardening, and rooting for her two teenagers' lacrosse and soccer teams.

Education

Bachelor of Arts, Political Science, University of Washington
Juris Doctorate, University of Oregon School of Law

Professional Memberships and Affiliations

WSBA - Washington State Bar Association
WSAMA - Washington State Association of Municipal Attorneys
WCIA - Washington Cities Insurance Authority, Delegate
MRSC - Municipal Research and Services Center, Board of Directors Member



What do you enjoy most about leading your department?

I enjoy the constant variety and new challenges. The City Attorney's Office provides day-to-day risk management, legal advice and representation to the City Manager, City Council and all City Departments, Boards and Commissions. Given the diversity of services the City provides to Islanders – everything from Asphalt street overlays to Zumba classes at the MICEC – the variety of issues is truly endless and exciting! Our talented team of legal professionals is hard-working, creative, and results-oriented, and we enjoy working together to serve our clients in the most efficient, cost-effective, and helpful manner we can.

What do you enjoy most about working for the City of Mercer Island?

The excellent teamwork, collaboration, and synergy among the various City Departments is most enjoyable and creates a genuinely positive and supportive work environment. As a full-service municipal corporation, the City of Mercer Island is comprised of approximately 200 full-time employees spread across over 10 different departments to collectively deliver essential and extraordinary programs and services to residents and visitors alike. The City's employees are dedicated and caring, and together we strive to leverage limited resources in order to maintain Mercer Island's reputation as a desirable community in which to live, work and play.

Address & Contact Information

Mercer Island City Hall
9611 SE 36th Street
Mercer Island, WA 98040

Phone: (206) 275-7650

E-mail address: kari.sand@mercergov.org

Mike Kaser

Information Services Director

Mike is the Information Services Director and oversees information technology (IT) and geographic information systems (GIS) in support of City services. He has lived in the Pacific Northwest since 2004 and has worked in the Information Technology field since 2001. He is passionate about public service, technology that improves service levels and business processes, and information security.

Education

Bachelor of Arts, Management of Information Systems (MIS), Washington State University

Certifications

MCSE – Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer
CISSP – Certified Information Systems Security Professional
GCIH – Certified Incident Handler
VCP – VMWare Certified Professional
OSCP – Offensive Security Certified Professional (in progress)

Professional Memberships and Associations

ACCIS - Association of County and City Information Systems (current Vice President, former chair of cyber security sub-committee)



What do I enjoy most about leading my department?

The two things I love most about leading my department are the people I work with and the work that we do. I have the privilege of working with incredibly smart and creative people and my department wouldn't be what it is without them. The diversity in the needs, processes, and technology used by City departments like Police, Public Works, or Parks & Rec to deliver services to the public creates a challenging and rewarding environment for geeks like me.

What do I enjoy most about working for the City of Mercer Island?

The City of Mercer Island is a great and unique island community between two major Washington cities. It is also a full service city providing three utilities, police, fire, parks & rec and other services. The community interest in quality of life on all fronts creates a fast paced and engaged civic environment that keeps me challenged. The City has amazing staff which enables achieving things in our organization that seem challenging for other cities to do.

Address & Contact Information

Mercer Island City Hall
9611 SE 36th Street
Mercer Island, WA 98040

Phone: (206) 275-7772

E-mail address: mike.kaser@mercergov.org

Ross Freeman

Sustainability & Communications Manager

Ross Freeman is a Seattle native who has worked for the City since 2013 when he became its first-ever Sustainability and Communications Manager, charged with the dual tasks of designing and implementing measures to reduce environmental impacts and greenhouse gas emissions community-wide, and also with leading the City's outreach, media communications, and public engagement efforts

His recent prior employment includes five years launching and running an award-winning company-wide sustainability program at Steven Pass Mountain Resort, and six years as staff scientist, policy analyst, and outreach specialist with the Northwest office of American Rivers, a national conservation organization where he focused on ecosystem protection, rebuilding salmon populations, and administering habitat restoration grants.

In 2012, Ross was named to Seattle Business Magazine's "Green 50" list in recognition of his professional sustainability achievements. In his spare time, he's likely to be rafting, skiing, or climbing somewhere in the wilds of the PNW.



Education

Bachelor of Arts, Geology and Environmental Studies, Colorado College
Master of Science, Conservation Biology and Sustainable Development, University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Certifications

LEED Accredited Professional, US Green Building Council (2009)
NIMS (National Incident Management System) ICS Courses: 100, 200, 300, 400, 800, 907
Management and Leadership Training Graduate (100hr course), New Foundations Consulting (2012)
Wilderness First Responder & CPR

Address & Contact Information

Mercer Island City Hall
9611 SE 36th Street
Mercer Island, WA 98040

Phone: (206) 275-7662

E-mail address: ross.freeman@mercergov.org

Ali Spietz

City Clerk

Ali has worked for the City of Mercer Island for over 15 years. Ali grew up in the Puget Sound area and began working for the City as a work study student during college in the Youth and Family Services Department. In 2001, she returned to the City as the Deputy City Clerk and in 2004 was appointed City Clerk.

In 2005, she received her Certified Municipal Clerk status and in 2010 she earned her Master Municipal Clerk designation from the International Institute of Municipal Clerks. She has served as President of the Washington Municipal Clerks Association (WMCA) and currently coordinates all of the advanced education for WMCA. She received the 2012 Clerk of the Year Award from WMCA after being nominated by the City and her clerk peers.

Education

Bachelor of Arts, Humanities, Seattle University
Bachelor of Arts, Social Work, Seattle University

Certifications

CMC - Certified Municipal Clerk designation (2005)
MMC - Master Municipal Clerk designation (2010)

Professional Memberships and Affiliations

KCMCA - King County Municipal Clerks Association
WMCA - Washington Municipal Clerks Association (Past President)
IIMC - International Institute of Municipal Clerks
WA-PRO - Washington Association of Public Records Officers

Address & Contact Information

Mercer Island City Hall
9611 SE 36th Street
Mercer Island, WA 98040

Phone: (206) 275-7793

E-mail address: ali.spietz@mercergov.org



Jenny Brailey, Brailey Consulting

Jenny works with municipal governments, public agencies and private organizations to help them advance their missions by engaging their communities in meaningful, authentic conversations about the work they do. She has worked in this arena since moving to Seattle from Washington, D.C. in 1995. Prior to opening Brailey Consulting, Jenny was vice president at award-winning public affairs firm APCO Worldwide where she provided strategic communications and public affairs services to clients globally and locally.

During her 10 years at APCO, Jenny consulted with the cities of Kirkland and Redmond, public hospitals districts across Washington state, local transportation agencies in the Puget Sound region, federal government agencies, and private companies including Starbucks, Pfizer, and Ikea among others. She has a strong background in all facets of public opinion research including experience in focus group facilitation.

Jenny has a Master of Public Policy from Duke University and an undergraduate degree in Government from the College of William & Mary.

