



CITY OF KIRKLAND

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MEMORANDUM

To: Kurt Triplett, City Manager
From: J Kevin Nalder, Director Fire and Building Department
Date: February 20, 2014
Subject: City Emergency Manager Introduction

Recommendation

Introduce the recently hired City Emergency Manager to the City Council and community.

Background

In late 2012 the City received, from Emergency Services Consulting International (ESCI), the Kirkland Fire Department Strategic Plan. ESCI recommended the City of Kirkland hire a full-time City Emergency Manager, shifting daily emergency management responsibilities away from the fire department Deputy Chief of Administration to an Emergency Manager.

Considering the fact, the temporary Emergency Preparedness Coordinator position would end at the close of 2012, staff felt this was a high priority recommendation and proposed adding the Emergency Manager position as part of the 2013-2014 budget process. City Council approved the recommended proposal as part of the 2013-2014 budget adoption.

The position was temporarily filled by a fire department Deputy Chief until his retirement in September 2013. A national search was conducted and seventy five applications were received from applicants as far away as Florida.

Duties

The Emergency Manager for the City of Kirkland will direct, plan and develop emergency management programs for the City. The scope of the position will encompass disaster preparedness, response, mitigation and recovery programs. The Emergency Manager will represent the City in regional emergency planning, training and response activities. The Emergency Manager will foster and build public, private and community partnerships. The position will also be responsible to seek grant funding to ensure a more prepared and resilient community in the event of a disaster.

Introduction

The City of Kirkland is proud to introduce Patricia Hooper, PhD in her new role as City Emergency Manager.

Dr. Hooper comes to Kirkland with seventeen years experience in emergency management. As a contract employee of the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA), Dr. Hooper

worked with federal, tribal, state, local, and community-based organizations conducting disaster preparedness, planning and training. Her work with FEMA includes constructing an outreach program to promote disaster recovery programs for people who are deaf or hard-of-hearing and working with the Washington State Committee for Accessible CERT training. Most recently, Dr. Hooper was the Senior Planner for the federal effort to supplement and enhance the Medical Countermeasures plan for New York City, working closely with the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

Dr. Hooper emphasizes inclusion and community participation in emergency preparedness.

Her Ph.D. is in Communication from the University of Washington, where she wrote her dissertation titled *Vulnerable Populations and Crisis Communication: A Model for Accessible Disaster Preparedness Campaigns*.

Dr. Hooper prefers to be addressed as Pattijean. Please join me in a warm welcome to Pattijean, our new City Emergency Manager.