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**PORT OF SEATTLE
RESOLUTION NO. 3811**

A RESOLUTION of the Port of Seattle Commission setting the daily per diem allowance Port of Seattle commissioners can earn to be equal to that of Washington state legislators, and increasing each commissioner's maximum number of days of per diem reimbursement per calendar year from 120 days to 205 days.

WHEREAS, the voters of King County authorized and approved the formation of a port district co-extensive with King County to be known as the Port of Seattle in a special election on September 5, 1911; and

WHEREAS, the Port of Seattle is governed by five commissioners elected to four-year terms of office by the voters of King County and whose mission is to promote economic opportunities and quality of life in the region by advancing trade, travel, commerce, and job creation in an equitable, accountable, and environmentally responsible manner; and

WHEREAS, the Port of Seattle is unique amongst most ports in the nation in the diversity of operations it manages that includes an airport, seaport, grain terminal, three cruise ship berths, four recreational marinas, Fishermen's Terminal, industrial lands, and parks, and is engaged in an expanding variety of economic development activities such as workforce development, tourism, as well as a joint cargo terminal operating agreement with the Port of Tacoma known as the Northwest Seaport Alliance; and

WHEREAS, in a representative democracy, it is essential for elected officials to reflect the full diversity of their constituency and that those citizens who choose elected office can maintain the economic means to participate while in office; and

WHEREAS, as a matter of good governance and sound public policy, the Port of Seattle Commission wishes to set a livable wage for Seattle Port Commissioners to encourage residents of King County from diverse backgrounds to seek election to the Seattle Port Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Port of Seattle Commission is the legally constituted governing body of the Port whose primary duties are to establish policies that guide the Port's future, hire the Executive Director to implement those policies, execute its fiduciary responsibilities in the oversight of the expenditure of public funds, and to annually determine the amount of tax levy will be assessed on properties in King County; and

42 **WHEREAS**, Port of Seattle Commissioners are responsible to the voters in protecting
43 the public’s interests and resources, which is different than a corporate board accountable to
44 shareholders; and

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46 **WHEREAS**, the Port of Seattle’s Century Agenda, established in 2012, envisions
47 extensive outreach across King County by Seattle Port Commissioners to other regional
48 government officials, industry and union stakeholders, educational institutions, and community
49 organizations; and

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51 **WHEREAS**, the role of Port of Seattle Commissioners has expanded considerably since
52 the adoption of the Century Agenda and the passage of Resolution No. 3678 in 2013, which set
53 the salary of Port of Seattle Commissioners to that of legislators in the State of Washington, but
54 did not address the per diem rate and allowance for commissioners; and

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56 **WHEREAS**, the creation of the Northwest Seaport Alliance in 2015, the nation’s first
57 joint port development authority, established a unique marine cargo operating partnership with
58 the Ports of Seattle and Tacoma in which the five Commissioners from each Port hire and oversee
59 an independent executive thereby creating significantly expanded oversight duties of investments
60 and operations in both the Seattle and Tacoma harbors; and

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62 **WHEREAS**, additional Commission responsibilities include providing oversight and
63 assuring the implementation of significant new policy directives passed by the Commission to
64 include much greater emphasis on equity, diversity and inclusion, workforce development and
65 more stringent environmental and greenhouse gas reduction goals; and

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67 **WHEREAS**, there is a significant need for oversight of unprecedented levels of
68 construction and operational changes occurring at the airport and seaport, as well as development
69 of surrounding Port properties which increases pressure for commercial development on
70 industrial lands; and

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72 **WHEREAS**, the current per diem for a Seattle Port Commissioner of \$128 per day with
73 an annual maximum of \$15,360 per calendar year, which equates to 120 days per calendar year,
74 is not commensurate with the substantial year-round commitment of time and effort required to
75 fulfill the duties of the office which is exacerbated by significant rising cost of living in King
76 County; and

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78 **WHEREAS**, Port Commissioners are currently not eligible for the Public Employee
79 Retirement System nor the per diem set by the Washington State legislature; and

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81 **WHEREAS**, as of July 1, 2022, port commissioner salaries annually, not including per
82 diem or other allowable reimbursements, is \$56,881 as determined by the Washington Citizen’s
83 Commission on Salaries for Elected Officials for members of the State legislature on which
84 Resolution 3678 based Port Commissioner salaries; and

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86 **WHEREAS**, Washington’s legislators’ per diem is currently \$185 per day and it is tied
87 to 89% of the federal per diem rate; and

