

**File ID:** 2026-01043

6/9/2026

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## **Appointment of Hearing Examiner for Code Compliance Hearings**

File ID: 2026-01043

**Location:** Citywide

**Recommendation:** Adopt a **Resolution** appointing Bonnie Peterson as a hearing examiner to hear appeals of administrative penalties, fees, orders, and other enforcement matters for violations of the Sacramento City Code for a four-year term effective July 1, 2026.

**Contact:** Bridget Casey, Program Manager, (916) 808-4591, [bcasey@cityofsacramento.org](mailto:bcasey@cityofsacramento.org); Peter Lemos, Code and Housing Enforcement Chief, (916) 808-8183, [plemos@cityofsacramento.org](mailto:plemos@cityofsacramento.org); Community Development Department

**Presenter:** None

### **Attachments:**

- 1-Description/Analysis
- 2-Hearing Examiner Application
- 3-Resolution

### **Description/Analysis**

**Issue Detail:** Various chapters of the Sacramento City Code provide the ability to appeal administrative penalties, fees, and orders imposed resulting from code violations. Under City Code sections 1.24.050 1.28.010(D)(4)(c), administrative penalty appeals may be heard by a hearing examiner appointed by the City Council. Matters of fees and orders imposed shall also be heard by a hearing examiner appointed by the City Council as noted in the various chapters of Sacramento City Code. The Community Development Department (CDD), Code Compliance Division conducts hearings for administrative penalties, fees, and notice & orders issued by its building inspectors and code enforcement officers for code violations and failure to comply with orders. CDD items at the hearings include matters such as violations of the City's Neighborhood Code Compliance program and Housing & Dangerous Buildings violations.

These hearings have expanded to include administrative appeals from other City departments and divisions, including Animal Control, Police, Fire, Urban Forestry, and Solid Waste. Additionally,

hearing examiners may be called upon by other City departments when an independent decision is necessary, such as Department of Utilities for service disconnections and the Revenue Division for fee collections.

For code violations resulting in an administrative penalty and related fees, the hearing examiner can affirm the administrative penalty amount, reduce the penalty to a lower amount, or find that imposition of the penalty is not warranted. The hearing examiner has the discretion to impose a lower, but not a higher penalty amount. In making the decision, the hearing examiner considers evidence presented by all witnesses, the seriousness of the violation, the responsible party's efforts to correct the violation, the impact on the neighborhood, any instances in which the responsible party has been in violation of the same or similar code provisions in the previous three years, and the amount of City staff time which was expended investigating and addressing the violation. Decisions made by the hearing examiner are final.

Hearing examiner openings were posted on the City Clerk Boards and Commissions recruitment website in November 2025. Bonnie Peterson's application was received and is included in Attachment 2. The applicant was interviewed by a panel of three City employees. Based on their qualifications, experience, and interview, Bonnie Peterson was selected to serve as a hearing examiner.

Staff is recommending appointment of this hearing examiner to a four-year term. Hearing examiners can apply to be reappointed at the end of their term. A resolution is required for such appointments per City Code section 1.24.060(B).

**Policy Considerations:** None.

**Economic Impacts:** Not applicable.

**Environmental Considerations:** Not applicable.

**Sustainability:** Not applicable.

**Commission/Committee Action:** Not applicable.

**Rationale for Recommendation:** Hearing examiners are necessary to ensure due process for appeals of administrative penalties, fees and orders. They are non-city employees who conduct hearings and issue opinions based on findings of fact.

**Financial Considerations:** The hourly fee is set by City Council and applies to review of the hearing packet, the hearing length, and the time to review the evidence and prepare the decision. The hourly fee for hearing examiners is currently \$50.00 per hour. Hearing costs are partially offset by hearing

appeal fees. There are sufficient resources in the Fiscal Year 2026/27 Community Development Department Operating budget to fund the hearing costs. Resources in future years will be subject to availability in the adopted operating budget for the applicable fiscal year.

**Local Business Enterprise (LBE):** Not applicable.

# Bonnie Elizabeth Peterson

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## Status

**Name** Bonnie Elizabeth Peterson  
**Application Date** 1/26/2026  
**Expiration Date** 1/26/2027  
**Board Member** [Bonnie Elizabeth Peterson](#)  
**Status** Validated

Board	Vacancies	Status
Hearing Examiners ::Hearing Examiner	1	<span>MQs Confirmed</span>

## Basic Information

**Name**  
Bonnie Elizabeth Peterson

**Date of Birth**

Please state the reason(s) you would like to serve on this legislative body.

I would appreciate the opportunity to provide an unbiased analysis of compliance issues including reviewing the applicable regulations, potential deficiencies in compliance, and providing citizens a pathway to compliance for the health and safety of the City as a whole.

Please list all of your professional experience directly related to the seat you are applying for.

I have 20 years of experience assisting clients with state, federal, and local environmental permits including completing permit applications, assisting with on-site compliance, and completing required monitoring and reporting. The goal of these permits is to comply with existing environmental laws and codes, as well as measures developed during the CEQA process, and include site specific measures to comply with these overarching requirements. While these do not require working with city code enforcement and business licensing activities directly, they require an ability to focus on the specific the regulatory text that apply to a project and interpret the appropriate actions to stay in compliance with those regulations. Additionally, I have previously operated a small business in the City, I am an active Real Estate Agent in the area, and I have previously fostered dog through the Front Street Animal Shelter including housing dogs on investigation holds.

Please list any training or education directly related to the seat you are applying for.

-City of Sacramento, Citizens Planning Academy (2019) -B.S., Conservation Biology, California State University, Sacramento - Licensed Salesperson through the DRE - Licensed Realtor

Please list any additional experience, community activities, volunteering experience, or other qualifications that would be helpful in evaluating your application.

- Fostering through the Front Street Animal Shelter. - Past President, Sac-Shasta Chapter of the Wildlife Society. - Past Section Representative, Western Section of the Wildlife Society. - Previously owned a small restaurant and brewery within the City, including during permitting of tenant improvements and ADA upgrades. - Previously held a short term rental permit through the City of Sacramento - Currently operate a single rental property in the City registered under the Rental Housing Inspection Program.

Please list the Seat(s) you are applying for.

Code Compliance Hearing Examiner

## Contact Information

**Address**

**Ward/District**

District 5

**Email**

**Phone**

## Occupation

**Employer**

Madrone Ecological Consulting  
**Occupation**

Biologist. Regulatory Specialist  
**Job Title**

Senior Biologist

**Professional Licenses**

• B.S., Conservation Biology, California State University, Sacramento

**Registrations/Certifications**

• CDFW Scientific Collecting Permit • CDFW Threatened & Rare Plant Collection Permit • USFWS Threatened & Endangered Species Permit for federally listed Branchiopods

## **RESOLUTION NO. 2026-**

Adopted by the Sacramento City Council

\_\_\_\_\_, 2026

### **Appointment of Hearing Examiner for Code Compliance Hearings**

#### **BACKGROUND**

- A. Sacramento City Code sections 1.24.050 and 1.28.010(D)(4)(c) authorize the City Council to appoint a hearing examiner to hear appeals regarding the imposition of administrative penalties and other violations of the City Code.
- B. Following a Request for Applications process in 2025, a qualified panel of City employees recommended selection of Bonnie Peterson as a hearing examiner to hear appeals of administrative penalties, fees, orders, and other enforcement matters for violations of the Sacramento City Code. Such recommendation was based on her qualifications and experience.
- C. Staff is now recommending that the City Council appoint Bonnie Peterson as a hearing examiner for a four-year term.

#### **BASED ON THE FACTS SET FORTH ABOVE, THE CITY COUNCIL RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:**

- Section 1. The City Council finds that hearings on appeals imposing administrative penalties, fees, orders, and other enforcement matters under the City Code involve lengthy fact-finding processes which would be more appropriately accommodated by a formal hearing before a hearing examiner.
- Section 2. Pursuant to Sacramento City Code sections 1.24.050 and 1.28.010(D)(4)(c), Bonnie Peterson is hereby appointed as a Hearing Examiner to hear appeals related to administrative penalties, fees, orders, and other enforcement matters for violations of the Sacramento City Code.

Bonnie Peterson's term shall begin on July 1, 2026, and end on June 30, 2030.

Adopted by the City of Sacramento City Council on \_\_\_\_\_, 2026, by the following vote:

Ayes:

Noes:

Abstain:

Absent:

Attest:

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Mindy Cuppy, City Clerk

*The presence of an electronic signature certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy as approved by the Sacramento City Council.*