



Seattle Tax Advisory Group

Date: Tuesday, March 5, 2019 10:00 am

Location: Seattle Municipal Tower (700 Fifth Avenue)
40th Floor—Conference Room 4096

Attendees:

Mark Watterson, Tax Audit Manager, City of Seattle

Kevin Fitzpatrick, FileLocal Program Manager, City of Seattle

MaryAnne Olmstead, Director of Finance and Accounting, Virginia Mason

Tarah McLaughlin, Indirect Tax Compliance, Amazon

Rachel Le Mieux, Partner, Peterson Sullivan LLP

Dan Robillard, Expedia

Leanne Webber, Global Tax Director, Russell Investments

Ingrid Sudyam, Manager Indirect Taxes, Starbucks

Minutes:

FileLocal Update. An update on FileLocal progress was given. The question was asked if the information could be broken out to show growth in current businesses moving to FileLocal versus new businesses. The City will look into whether that can be split out in next update. Five other cities are looking into joining FileLocal and as those cities join more information will be provided for who is joining. The City noted there have been fewer issues after their simplification of the sign-up process.

Service Apportionment (HB 1403) Updates. Members were updated about the coming rule-writing process now that 1403 appears to be moving uneventfully through the committee readings and is expected to be signed by the governor. Because this is a change in the state-mandated city apportionment, the Model Ordinance is expected to be updated to reflect such changes. Those updates will likely be lead by AWC and stakeholders are expected to informed through AWC with additional outreach through AWB likely. Assuming 1403 passes as expected, the City of Seattle expects to start working on a rule this summer and engage stakeholders with a rule hearing late summer/early fall likely.

HB 1059 – Annual Due Dates. The City will be making updates to its systems to accommodate the new mandatory annual due dates assuming passage of HB 1059. If passed, the due dates will take effect in 2021 with annual 2020 returns due April 15, 2021, instead of January 31, 2021.

Income Tax Update. The last brief is due on the coming Monday and is a response to the amicus that the Rental Housing Association filed in opposition to the tax. Once all briefs are filed, the court will schedule a date for oral argument which is expected to occur in late April or May or possibly later.