

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Administrative, Campaign and Governmental Conduct Codes - Office of the Chief Medical Examiner]

Ordinance amending the Administrative Code and Campaign and Governmental Conduct Code to establish the position of Executive Director of the Office of Chief Medical Examiner, and to establish a division of responsibilities in that Office between the Executive Director and the Chief Medical Examiner.

Existing Law

The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner is responsible for providing death investigative services, including the investigation and certification of a variety of deaths of legal or public health interest. The Chief Medical Examiner is the head of the Office, and carries out duties under State law that must be performed by a county coroner or medical examiner. The Chief Medical Examiner is appointed by the City Administrator with concurrence of the Mayor, and may be removed by the City Administrator with the concurrence of the Mayor. The Office currently has approximately 39 employee positions, including four Assistant Medical Examiners.

Amendments to Current Law

The proposed ordinance would create a new position of Executive Director of the Office of Chief Medical Examiner. The City Administrator would have authority to appoint and remove the Executive Director without concurrence of the Mayor. The ordinance would not change the process for appointing or removing the Chief Medical Examiner.

The Chief Medical Examiner would continue to appoint and supervise the work and performance of all assistant or deputy medical examiners in the Office, and would continue to be responsible for making all final decisions assigned to a medical examiner or coroner under State law. The Executive Director would have all the other responsibilities of a department head for the office, including administrative supervision of all employees including the Chief Medical Examiner, and authority to appoint all employees other than assistant or deputy medical examiners. The ordinance would also authorize the City Administrator to assign additional duties to the Executive Director.

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