WASHOE COUNTY

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STAFF REPORT
BOARD MEETING DATE: January 12, 2021

DATE: Thursday, January 07, 2021

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Christine Vuletich, Assistant County Manager, Finance & Administration (775) 328-2016, cvuletich@washoecounty.us

THROUGH: Eric Brown, County Manager

SUBJECT: Confirm appointment of Behzad Zamanian as Chief Information Officer, Technology Services, effective February 1, 2021 and set starting annual salary at $160,014.40. (All Commission Districts.)

SUMMARY

The Board is asked to confirm the appointment of Behzad Zamanian as Chief Information Officer, Technology Services effective February 1, 2021, and set starting annual salary at $160,014.40.

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item: Regional and Community Leadership.

PREVIOUS ACTION

On July 14, 2020, the Board of County Commissioners accepted the resignation due to retirement of Washoe County Chief Information Officer (CIO), Craig Betts, and accepted the County Manager's recommendation to appoint Information Technology Manager, Quinn Korbulic to the position of Acting Chief Information Officer.

On February 23, 2015, the Board of County Commissioners confirmed the appointed Craig Betts to the position of Chief Information Officer, effective March 3, 2015.

BACKGROUND

Under Washoe County Code 5.455, the Chief Information Officer shall be appointed by the County manager, with approval of the Board of County Commissioners, and shall serve at the pleasure of the County Manager in the unclassified service of Washoe County. The County conducted a nation-wide open and competitive recruitment for the CIO position. The County received applications from 80 candidates meeting the minimum qualifications for the CIO position. The top 9 candidates were interviewed by a six member, cross-departmental panel of County Department Heads and Managers on October 19 and 20th. The panel

recommended 3 top candidates to interview with the County Manager and the Assistant County Manager Finance and Administration. The final top 2 candidates were then interviewed by the County Manager.

After careful consideration and extensive background and reference checking, Behzad Zamanian was selected as the best candidate and fit for the position of CIO. His education includes a Certified Chief Information Officer credential from Rutgers School of Public Affairs and Administration, and a bachelor's degree in Computer Information Systems from California Polytechnical University, Pomona and Master of Business Administration coursework at University of California, Irvine.

With over 25 years of experience in the information technology field, Mr. Zamanian was most recently employed by the City of Huntington Beach, California where he has worked since 2004 having served as Chief Information Officer since 2015. He has also worked in technology positions at the University of California, Irvine and in private industry. He is a demonstrated leader experienced in technology services operations, strategic planning, cyber security, and major enterprise systems implementations. Mr. Zamanian is also a member of various professional organizations including the Municipal Information Systems Association of California, CISO Executive Information Systems Security Association, Orange County Law Enforcement IT Association, and the National Association of State Chief Information Officers, and has also published numerous articles on information technology topics in various professional publications.

The CIO is a high-level department head position with leadership responsibilities for a staff of over eighty individuals in the Technology Services Department. The department provides technical assistance, enterprise technology infrastructure management, applications management and development, cyber security, geographic information systems services, public safety radio systems management and support, and imaging and records services to County departments, offices and agencies.

FISCAL IMPACT

Funding for this position is available in the Department of Technology Services Fiscal Year 2020-21 budget.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners confirm the appointment of Behzad Zamanian as Chief Information Officer, Technology Services effective February 1, 2021, and set starting annual salary at $160,014.40.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with the recommendation, a possible motion would be "confirm the appointment of Behzad Zamanian as Chief Information Officer, Technology Services effective February 1, 2021, and set starting annual salary at $160,014.40.