

RE: IMPORTANT: FORBES REQUEST FOR COMMENT

Moore, Julie <Julie.Moore@seattle.gov>

Fri 6/19/2020 2:49 PM

To: John Gerard <John.Gerard@openthebooks.com>

Cc: Adam Andrzejewski <Adam@openthebooks.com>

We do not discuss individual employee compensation. However, we will note that all but one person (GM/CEO) on that list are hourly workers and a significant portion of reported wages are the result of overtime compensation. Overtime is utilized to manage workload and staffing based on customer need, which was extremely high in 2019 due to the extraordinary volume of new construction in and around Seattle. And the urban environment presents its own challenges, where disruptive work must often occur during evenings and weekends.

Additionally, electric utility operations is a highly specialized and technical field, which justifies higher rates of pay for certain positions/functions than other typical municipal bodies of work. Pay must be comparable to other neighboring public electric utilities' high voltage workers to attract and retain the talent and expertise required within this field. Additionally, it is somewhat unusual for an electric utility to be part of a municipal government and it is important to note that unlike general fund departments of the City of Seattle, City Light is not funded by taxes. We are funded entirely by revenues from our retail and wholesale operations, some of which occur outside Seattle city limits.

Julie

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From: John Gerard <John.Gerard@openthebooks.com>

Sent: Thursday, June 18, 2020 12:37 PM

To: Moore, Julie <Julie.Moore@seattle.gov>

Cc: Adam Andrzejewski <Adam@openthebooks.com>

Subject: IMPORTANT: FORBES REQUEST FOR COMMENT

CAUTION: External Email

Dear Ms. Moore,

My name is John Gerard, a researcher working with Adam Andrzejewski, a senior policy contributor at Forbes. We are working on a piece exploring salaries and compensation of public employees in Seattle city government. The deadline for comment is tomorrow, at 5:00 PM ET. If you miss our deadline, we will do our best to update the piece after you respond.

Please respond to this email with "**REPLY ALL.**"

In these times of national crisis, please provide us with an on-the-record justification for the

salaries of your highest compensated executives. Here is the section(s) where your entity is mentioned:

City Electrical Workers (426) – 426 of Seattle’s electrical workers earned six-figure salaries in 2019 and cost taxpayers \$66 million. Electrical engineers earned up to \$222,014; lineworkers earned as much as \$307,387; and cable splicers, \$328,371. See the city’s highest paid electrical workers below:

Name	Position	Salary
Vinod Kumar	Electrical Construction and Maintenance Supervisor	\$337,076
Deborah Smith	City Light General Manager and CEO	\$336,644
Michael Yi	Cable Splicer Crew Chief	\$328,371
Vattana Chittanongh	Power Dispatcher	\$325,568
Damian Mims	Cable Splicer Crew Chief	\$319,350
Fiel San Luis Diaz	Cable Splicer Crew Chief	\$316,755
Clinton Walczak	Line Crew Crew Chief	\$311,783
Ted Buparat	Lineworker	\$307,387
Christopher Quantrille	Lineworker	\$307,002
Christopher Dissel	Power Dispatcher	\$304,338

Any context, feedback, or comment would be important to our readers at Forbes.

Sincerely,

John Gerard, on behalf of...

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Senior Policy Contributor | *Forbes*
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