



## Seattle Tax Advisory Group

### December Meeting Minutes:

**Date:** March 17, 2015

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

### Attending Members:

Damian Hunt, Senior Tax Manager,  
Amazon

Ingrid Suydam, Manager, Indirect Tax, Starbucks

Glen Lee, City Finance Director

Rachel Le Mieux, Partner, Peterson Sullivan LLP

Joseph Cunha, Tax Administrator, City of  
Seattle

Mark Watterson, Tax Audit Manager

Jamie Carnell, FileLocal

Craig Goodrich, SVP Finance, Virginia Mason

### **Update – FileLocal Project**

Jamie Carnell gave an update on the status of the FileLocal project, the project continues to make progress with the major modules complete and in testing. Performance and security testing will be done before soft launch. Members of the Tax Advisory Group may be tapped for additional input. Still looking to mid-May 2015 for a soft launch in which select users will participate and involve only Seattle and Tacoma filings. Tacoma will only feature utility tax filings initially. Road map for 2016-2020 looks to get additional cities on board. Cities that have expressed interest include Issaquah, Renton, Burien, Long View, Snoqualmie, Bremerton, and Lake Forest Park.

### **Apportionment Update and Discussion**

Joseph Cunha provided that prior meetings with Association of Washington Cities tax roundtable were receptive to coming up with some general “safe-harbors” when it comes to service income apportionment and expectations about support for income sourcing. Taxpayer’s are looking for some clarity as to what documentation they are expected to provide in the event of a review or audit. Joseph offered to meet with the member to discuss in more detail and will try to meet in April.

One of the members also brought forward a concern from some other practitioners about some requests for alternative apportionment that continue to be under review. Joseph provided that he believes that he knows what issue the requests involve is working to have an answer.

### **Voluntary Disclosure Discussion**

Mark communicated that voluntary disclosure language is being drafted to be placed on the City’s website. This will make the voluntary disclosure program more visible for businesses. In addition, a voluntary disclosure form will be available for businesses to use to assist them in providing the needed information for the voluntary disclosure. Mark plans on getting a draft of the voluntary disclosure language for website placement out to the members for review and comments.

## **City of Seattle Tax Advisory Group**

A joint voluntary disclosure program was discussed at the last AWC meeting to allow taxpayers a “one-stop” voluntary disclosure point. Cities showed strong interest in such a program. Mark and Joseph will work to formalize an agreement with the interested AWC members at the next AWC meeting in June.

### **Other**

Members asked if there were any significant items or issues that may be coming forward this year. Glen Lee communicated that there’s always rolling levies. Glen also provided general update on seawall construction progress; planned additional amenities to Pike Place Market (additional parking garage); and that the City and other interested parties are looking at options for the road around the viaduct once the viaduct is removed.

### **Next Steps**

- a. Mark will send out draft of voluntary disclosure program language to members.
- b. Joseph to set up meeting with Rachel Le Mieux in April for apportionment/documentation discussion