

Michael HARRIS for MAYOR

It's Time to Right the Ship

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Seattle, WA
Contact: Matthew Mattson (206) 707-3532
matt@mattsonlawfirm.com
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MICHAEL HARRIS TO RUN FOR MAYOR

SEATTLE-BASED ABC NEWS JOURNALIST, CONSERVATIONIST AND FORMER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF PACIFIC WHALE WATCH ASSOCIATION SETS COURSE FOR CITY HALL



SEATTLE: Longtime Seattle marine advocate and ABC News Producer/Photojournalist Michael Harris has thrown his name into the hat for Seattle Mayor. Mr. Harris has released a comprehensive platform and set of positions on issues facing the City of Seattle, highlighted by his politically daring pledge of no new taxes, an effort to reclaim the “radical center,” direct involvement from the Mayor to tackle the homeless epidemic and a bold initiative to convert the City of Seattle to 100% renewable energy by the year 2035.

Citing ineffective leadership, lack of direction, inefficient government and a failure of imagination and the need for fresh ideas to “right the ship” and correct the course for the future of the City of Seattle, Mr. Harris announces his candidacy for the Office of Mayor of the City of Seattle.

Mr. Harris, said, “I’ve lived in this City for most of my life. I’ve seen good government and bad government. I’ve seen good Mayors and bad ones. Our leadership in Seattle the last couple times around has been, at best, without courage or imagination. Our leaders are stuck in a rut and only propose new taxes as the only solution to any problem. City Hall has become increasingly disconnected from the people of Seattle and is more bloated and inefficient by the day. And we’re missing great opportunities to take the lead on the environment, our homeless epidemic, education, economic development, all the things that we in this town know how to do. I’m running for Mayor to bring bold, fresh, new ideas and perspective to the City of Seattle and to re-claim the radical center where most solutions are found. It’s time to right the ship.”

Mr. Harris has lived in the City of Seattle for over 34 years while working as a documentary and network television producer, for the last 15 years as an ABC News Producer and Photojournalist. He’s also served for five years as Executive Director of the Pacific Whale Watch Association, representing thirty-seven Canadian and American eco-tourism businesses that, in a study last year by University of Washington economist William Beyers, generated over \$144 million dollars of economic impact to the Pacific Northwest in 2014, growing at a clip of about 8.3% annually. Under his progressive leadership, PWWA has become a world paradigm for sustainable wildlife viewing. Mr. Harris also been a highly successful marine advocate, notably for his efforts on behalf of the Southern Resident Community of orcas, and a leading advocate and then plaintiff in the historic U.S. District Court victory against the George W. Bush Administration to secure the whales federal protection under the Endangered Species Act.

Mr. Harris is an eleven-time Emmy Award winning filmmaker and digital journalist, on a wide range of urgent subject matter from migrant farmworker issues to environmental and climate justice to indigenous history, from the Arctic to the Subantarctic, and into the jungles of Cambodia. He’s also known for his remarkable collaborations with the late, great Billy Frank Jr., some of the celebrated Native leader’s last major work before his death in 2014. Their work together for the series, “This is Indian Country with Billy Frank Jr.” earned Mr. Frank an Emmy for “Outstanding On-Air Host or Moderator.”

Mr. Harris is a single father living in Ballard with his two children, Will (9) and Vivi (5)

Friends of Michael Harris - Michael Harris for Seattle Mayor 2017 – 2247 15th Ave. W., Seattle, WA 98119 - (206) 707-3532