# **CHRISTOPHER L. OLSEN**

# **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

## Fiscal & Policy Analyst (2013-2019)

## City of San Diego – Office of the Independent Budget Analyst

- Served as principal-level analyst within the Office of the Independent Budget Analyst, concentrating on the City's Budget & Government Efficiency Committee and Public Safety & Livable Neighborhoods Committee
- Prepared comprehensive review of the City's \$3.8 billion annual budget at all stages of the budget development process, including the Five-Year Financial Outlook, quarterly budget monitoring reports, Mid-Year Budget Adjustments, Council budget priority memoranda, Proposed Budget, May Revise, and Adopted Budget
- Recommended revisions to the Mayor's Proposed Budget based on Councilmember budget priorities and independent analysis, which ultimately shape the Adopted Budget
- Evaluated planned expenditures, revenue projections, and policy decisions through interaction with departments and research using the City's financial reporting systems
- Reviewed and analyzed legislative items with a financial or policy impact to the City
- Participated in negotiations with labor groups, provided technical and strategic guidance as appropriate to the City's labor negotiations team, and represented the City Council
- Wrote and delivered presentations at City Council meetings and responded to Council questions on behalf of the Independent Budget Analyst
- Participated directly in City Council and policy committee meetings, sat at the dais alongside Councilmembers, and provided comments as appropriate during hearings
- Led office-wide budget report coordination
- Chaired weekly Council staff docket briefings, developed briefing agendas, and aided the Council President's office and Mayor's office in planning upcoming Council dockets
- Represented office and provided interviews with members of the press
- Served as office lead for community engagement efforts including the Citizens' Budget Academy and multiple Councilmembers' Budget Town Halls
- Produced high-quality, balanced reports on policy and programmatic issues at the request of the City Council and on a proactive basis
- Managed group projects and reports, collaborating with staff across multiple City departments in roles varying from front line operations to executive management
- Provided clear, objective, and unbiased information and analysis to the City Council and the public

## Adjunct Faculty – Lecturer (2018-Present)

## San Diego State University – School of Public Affairs

- Serves as adjunct faculty member teaching in the classroom and online
- Advises department colleagues on syllabi, course material, and real-world professional applicability for undergraduate and graduate level courses in public administration
- Teaches two courses:
  - Public Administration 450: "Fiscal and Budgetary Policy"
  - Public Administration 340: "Administrative Behavior"

#### Policy Director (2007-2010) Legislative Deputy (2004-2007) City of Los Angeles – City Council

- Directed staff analysis of the City's \$7.0 billion annual budget and advised Councilmembers during the budget review and modification process
- Managed the Councilmembers' legislative portfolios, including writing motions, resolutions, and policy memoranda while gathering input from all stakeholders
- Wrote speeches, position statements, newspaper op-eds, articles for newsletters and magazines, website content, official correspondence, and talking points
- Served as policy analyst for committees on Budget & Finance, Audits & Governmental Efficiency, Energy & Environment, Transportation, Personnel, and Public Safety
- Testified on behalf of Councilmembers at legislative hearings
- Served as liaison to Neighborhood Councils, homeowners' associations, chambers of commerce, faith-based organizations, and schools

# **OTHER RELEVANT EXPERIENCE**

## Candidate for San Diego City Council (2019-2020)

- Ran for San Diego City Council District 3, campaigning part-time from January to November 2019 then full-time from November 2019 to March 2020
- Managed a team of consultants, staff, and volunteers
- Fundraised over \$90,000
- Endorsed by San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce, Downtown San Diego Partnership, San Diego Union-Tribune
- Media links:
  - o Union Tribune Endorsement
  - o KUSI Live Interview

## PATH San Diego Advisory Board Member (2020-Present)

- People Assisting the Homeless (PATH) is one of San Diego's leading service providers for individuals experiencing homelessness, offering assistance in employment, outreach, housing navigation, interim housing, rapid rehousing, and permanent supportive housing
- PATH San Diego's Advisory Board provides guidance and support to the organization

## BikeSD Board Member (2020-Present)

- BikeSD is a leading transportation safety advocacy organization in San Diego
- BikeSD's Board of Directors manages the organization's affairs as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit

## EDUCATION

## Master of Public Administration (2013)

**University of North Carolina at Charlotte** Concentration in Urban Management and Policy Mayoral Fellow, City of Charlotte

Bachelor of Arts (2003) Pomona College (Claremont, CA) Politics and French Study abroad in Paris, France