

September 10, 2026

The Honorable Mayor Katie Wilson

Mayor, City of Seattle
600 Fourth Avenue, 7th Floor
Seattle, WA 98104

Council President Joy Hollingsworth

Councilmember Robert Kettle, Chair, Public Safety Committee

Seattle City Council
600 Fourth Avenue, 2nd Floor
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Mayor Wilson, Council President Hollingsworth, Chair Kettle, and Members of the Seattle City Council:

The clearest message from our August 17 joint public-opinion poll of registered Seattle voters is this: residents expect the City to act with urgency, fund the actions needed to improve safety, and provide a clear plan for measuring progress.

The poll found overwhelming support for a concrete set of public safety actions and, at the same time, real skepticism that City Hall has an adequate plan in place. Only 34% of voters said they were confident the City has an effective plan to address these issues. Voters are asking for action, on a timeline, with results they can measure.

Every proposal tested drew support from at least three in four voters, across every part of the city and every demographic group. This is not a narrow or partisan agenda, it is a shared baseline that Seattle residents and the business community are asking their elected leaders to deliver both now and as a sustained priority.

As the City works through its current budget process, we also urge the Mayor and Council to protect and increase the public safety investments these proposals depend on. As of mid-2026, Seattle has approximately 1.31 sworn officers per 1,000 residents about 40% fewer than Denver, 43% fewer than San Francisco, and 58% fewer than Boston.

As such, we're requesting your partnership and a concrete set of actions around the following key public safety items that have overwhelming support by the public and businesses. In the near term, voters have clearly called for activating CCTV cameras in Pioneer Square, the Stadium District, and other high-event areas to deter crime and help identify and hold offenders accountable.

Also, in the short-term, the City should produce a public safety action plan within 100 days, with measurable goals and monthly progress reports. More than 86% of the public supports an action plan that will help ensure the budget aligns with stated public safety actions.

The plan, at minimum, should then include:

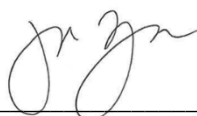
- Providing a path forward for regular foot and bicycle police patrols in areas with persistent public safety problems, such as Little Saigon. (90% support)

- Recommitting to the current standard priority 7-minute 911 response times. Data from Nordstrom's flagship store downtown shows that only 29% of their 911 calls yield a police officer response to their store. Conversely, calls at their Southcenter and Bellevue locations receive a 100% response to 911 calls. It's clear the public wants to know when and if this is not being met, support for a transparent reporting when that standard is not met and redirect spending and resources to meet it. (90% support)
- Offering clear policy direction that City diversion specialists, organized by the CARE Department, should offer illegal drug users treatment and shelter first, and for those who repeatedly refuse help, the offenders should be arrested and prosecuted. It is our understanding that care is received within the jail system and that the Jail Re-entry Pilot Program is showing early success. (82% support)
- Directing the Seattle Police Department and the City Attorney to articulate a clear, prioritized policy pathway for shutting down open-air drug markets. (81% support)
- Providing policy that bans camping within 250 feet of a park, playground, or school, and requiring the City to clear encampments in these areas within 72 hours. Our community parks and public play spaces are not safe – and they should be. From Jose Rizal Park in North Beacon Hill to Matthews Beach and beyond, Seattle residents deserve safe parks and school playgrounds. (79% support)

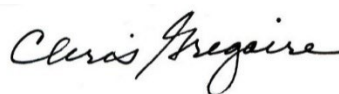
A credible public-safety plan and a budget that protects the investments behind it are inseparable. Seattle voters have made clear that they expect both. We are ready to be partners. We welcome the opportunity to meet with you and your staff to discuss how the City can move from planning to action on these priorities.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent, shared priority for our city.

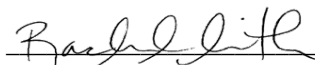
Sincerely,



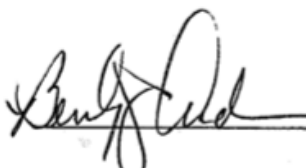
Joe Nguyễn
President & CEO
Seattle Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce



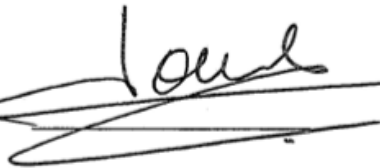
Gov. Chris Gregoire
CEO
Challenge Seattle



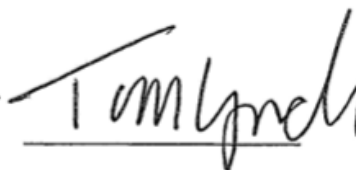
Rachel Smith
President
Washington Roundtable



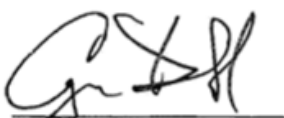
Beverly Anderson
President & CEO
BECU



François Locoh-Donou
CEO
F5



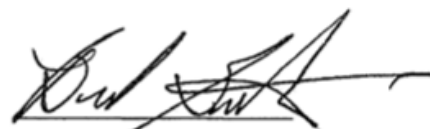
Tom Lynch, Jr., M.D.
President & Director
Fred Hutchinson Cancer
Center



Cynthia Dold
Regional President,
Washington
Kaiser Permanente



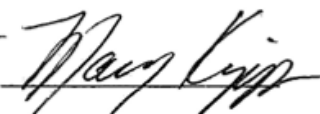
Matt McIlwain
Managing Director
Madrona Venture Group



Brad Smith
Vice Chair & President
Microsoft



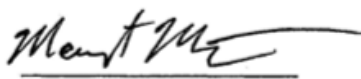
Erik Nordstrom
CEO & Co-President
Nordstrom



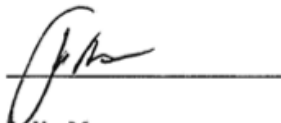
Mary Kipp
President & CEO
Puget Sound Energy



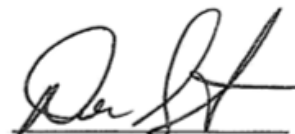
John Stanton
CEO
Seattle Mariners



Margaret Meister
President & CEO
Symetra Financial
Corporation



Julie Manas
President, NW Region
Virginia Mason
Franciscan Health



Devin Stockfish
President & CEO
Weyerhaeuser



Brian Niccol
Chairman & CEO
Starbucks Coffee Company



Ron Vachris
CEO and President
Costco



Jeremy Wacksman
CEO
Zillow Group



Ben Minicucci
CEO & President
Alaska Air Group



Mike Sievert
Vice Chairman
T-Mobile



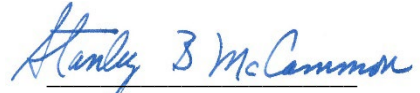
Zach Buchwald
Chairman & CEO
Russell Investments



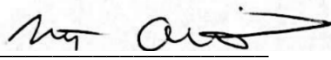
Ada Healey
Chief Real Estate Officer
Vulcan Real Estate



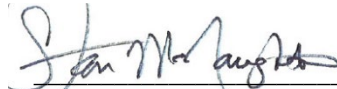
Dave Stewart
Senior Vice President,
General Counsel & Chief
Ethics Officer
Saltchuk



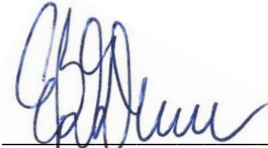
Stanley B. McCammon
Chairman and CEO
Joshua Green Corporation



Matt Oppenheimer
Chairman
Remitly



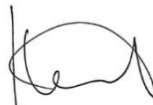
Stan McNaughton
President & CEO
PEMCO Mutual Insurance
Co



Erin Goodman
Executive Director
SODO Business
Improvement Area



Craig Dawson
President & CEO
Retail Lockbox, Inc.



Ilona Lohrey
President & CEO
Greater Seattle Business
Association



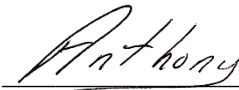
Mike Stewart
Executive Director
Ballard Alliance



Dean C. Allen
Chairman & CEO
McKinstry Co. LLC



Joe Fugere
Founder
Tutta Bella



Anthony Anton
President and CEO
Washington Hospitality
Association



Brian McGuigan
CEO
Laird Norton Company



Julie Sandler
Co-founder & Venture
Partner
PSL Ventures