



Seattle City Council

August 24, 2009

Governor Christine Gregoire  
Office of the Governor  
Post Office Box 40002  
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Secretary Eldon Vail  
Department of Corrections  
Post Office Box 41100, Mail Stop 41100  
Olympia, Washington 98504-1100

Re: Community Response Unit  
Neighborhood Corrections Initiative (NCI) and Federal Task Forces

Dear Governor Gregoire and Secretary Vail,

We are writing to request that you restore the four NCI officer positions in our region that are scheduled for elimination on August 26, 2009. These NCI officers provide vital public safety services in our communities.

These critical positions include two in Seattle's West Police Precinct, one in the King County Sheriff's Office, and one assigned to the ATF VGTF

(Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms violent gang task force) which includes officers from the Seattle Police Department, the King County Sheriff's Office, and ATF.

The NCI position in the King County Sheriff's Office was designated after Deputy Steve Cox was killed by a DOC-supervised offender.

The cuts would adversely impact our region's ability to capture wanted felons, to monitor offenders in our communities on DOC-supervised release, and to provide hands-on personal assistance to DOC-supervised individuals who require housing, detoxification services, medical care, social services, and crisis intervention and support in order to stay out of trouble and risk reoffending.

Many DOC-supervised individuals engage in stranger-on-stranger violence to maintain their drug and alcohol addictions; they significantly contribute to social disorder in more densely populated areas due to aggressive panhandling and anti-social behavior associated with mental illness and chemical dependency. As a result, residents are rightly worried about their personal safety. They seek our help to protect them.

This is not just a Seattle issue. Our region has more than 7,000 offenders—more than any other area in Washington State. Since the program's inception in 1999, NCI officers have made over one million contacts with DOC offenders including arrests, check-on contacts, and other interventions.

Public safety requires coordination and cooperation at all levels of government. We deeply appreciate the work of the DOC officers who partner with local law enforcement and federal agencies. Their work makes a unique and critical contribution to protecting our communities.

Eighty percent of the critical street incivility issues in our urban and rural areas are associated with this offender population. The loss of these officers will significantly impact our region's ability to monitor DOC-supervised offenders and will increase the likelihood of violent criminal incidents. The situation will worsen if the DOC proceeds with accelerated early release of individuals in custody.

We understand the need to make tough budget decisions during the current economic downturn. Many of us are now making similar decisions on what to cut and what to spare.

We ask that public safety not be compromised. Maintaining these NCI positions will help ensure that felons who might reoffend, as occurred in White Center, are more closely supervised. We need the resources to be sure that those who do reoffend are more quickly apprehended.

We respectfully ask that you retain these positions and not make these cuts. Thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely,

Seattle City Council



Richard Conlin, President



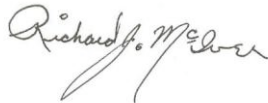
Tim Burgess



Jan Drago



Bruce Harrell



Richard J. McIver



Sally J. Clark



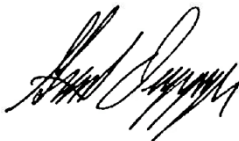
Jean Godden



Nick Licata



Tom Rasmussen



Mayor Grant Degginger  
City of Bellevue



Mayor David Baker  
City of Kenmore



Mayor Dave Hutchinson  
City of Lake Forest Park



Mayor Cindy Ryu  
City of Shoreline



Interim Chief John Diaz  
Seattle Police Department



Sheriff Susan Rahr  
King County



Sheriff John Lovick  
Snohomish County



Sheriff Kenneth Irwin  
Yakima County



Mayor Ralph Shape  
City of SeaTac



U.S. Marshal W.J. Hawe  
Western District of WA



Mark Brown  
Island County Sheriff



Sheriff Richard Grimstead  
Skagit County



Sheriff Bill Elfo  
Whatcom County



Kate Joncus, President  
Downtown Seattle Association

cc: Senator Adam Kline  
Representative Christopher Hurst  
Senator Jeanne Kohl-Wells