

Mayors and Business Leaders for **Public Safety**

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Snohomish County Mayors' Statement on Proposed Snohomish County Drug Possession Ordinance

EVERETT — April 25, 2023 — Everett Mayor Cassie Franklin, Marysville Mayor Jon Nehring, Lake Stevens Mayor Brett Gailey and Sultan Mayor Russell Wiita offered the following statement on behalf of the Mayors and Business Leaders for Public Safety coalition in response to Snohomish County's proposed new drug possession ordinance:

"The Legislature's failure to act this session on the state's drug possession laws means local governments have the responsibility to enact ordinances that will address drug possession, public drug use and treatment incentives in their own jurisdictions.

"We support Snohomish County leaders and their efforts to provide a countywide model for local governments, several of which have either enacted or are in the process of enacting their own drug possession policies.

"As this group stated Sunday night, we had hoped the Legislature would produce meaningful changes to our state drug possession laws and provide law enforcement and prosecutors the mechanisms they need to address the drug issues that are consuming our communities. Despite the bipartisan efforts of Snohomish County legislators, led by Sen. June Robinson, that did not materialize before session concluded.

"We recognize that a special legislative session may be called to reconsider this issue before the state's current statute expires at midnight on June 30, and we hope that will result in a balanced proposal similar to what passed the senate. In the meantime, local jurisdictions will need to enact ordinances that meet the needs of their local communities."

To learn more about the coalition, visit keepourcitysafe.com.