

# Mayors and Business Leaders for Public Safety

November 15, 2022

The Honorable Sen. Marko Lias, State Senator, 21<sup>st</sup> Legislative District  
The Honorable Sen. John Lovick, State Senator, 44<sup>th</sup> Legislative District  
The Honorable Sen. Ron Muzzall, State Senator, 10<sup>th</sup> Legislative District  
The Honorable Sen. June Robinson, State Senator, 38<sup>th</sup> Legislative District  
The Honorable Sen. Keith Wagoner, State Senator, 39<sup>th</sup> Legislative District  
The Honorable Rep. Carolyn Eslick, State Representative, 39<sup>th</sup> Legislative District  
The Honorable Rep. Greg Gilday, State Representative, 10<sup>th</sup> Legislative District  
The Honorable Rep. Dave Paul, State Representative, 10<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

## ***Sent Via Electronic Mail***

**RE:** *Blake decision and vehicle pursuit legislation for the 2023 legislative session*

Dear Members of the Snohomish County Legislative Delegation:

Thank you for taking the time to meet with us recently and to learn more about our new coalition, Mayors and Business Leaders for Public Safety. Our coalition currently includes a bipartisan group of 15 Snohomish County mayors and we are in the process of adding private sector leaders to join us in finding solutions to our public safety challenges.

Our constituents consistently say public safety is their top priority. While we have taken many steps locally and will continue to pursue local initiatives to enhance public safety, we are also looking to your leadership in the Legislature to help us address local residents' concerns.

As we underscored in our conversation, we are hopeful that we can collaborate on legislation for the 2023 session that will address two specific issues — the *Blake* decision and the new police pursuit law. We share the concerns outlined in a recent letter to lawmakers by our fellow mayors in South King County, and would like to reiterate our specific policy requests for the 2023 session.

Regarding the *Blake* decision and drug possession:

- Re-establish accountability to the system so that law enforcement can take enforcement actions, including a “custodial action” (arrest), when legally authorized and appropriate. Classifying these arrests as a gross misdemeanor is our preference.
- Create court-driven solutions to prescribe treatment/services:
  - Offer a deferred sentence on first and second offenses, with a willingness to have this extended to additional offenses, contingent upon the offender agreeing to receive treatment or services. Should services be rejected then we would like to be able to pursue the arrest with a gross misdemeanor charge.

- For offenders who accept this offer, defer sentencing for those who enter a court-approved treatment program containing accountability requirements; this approach is similar to what is seen in DUI courts.
- Reward those who complete court requirements, including a substance abuse assessment, with expungement of any record of conviction for the offense.
- Emphasize and stress the role of courts – ensuring there are significant additional resources to go with an enhanced court-services system. Complementary funding through “988” should be explored, as should the use of the state’s portion of opioid-settlement revenues.
- Provide cities and counties with opioid settlement funding with a local match by all cities and counties receiving those proceeds.
- Ensure penalties are available for imposition on repeat offenders or those who refuse help and/or do not complete agreed-upon treatment/service programs.

On police pursuits:

- Allow law enforcement to more fully use their training, experience and judgment in the field.
- Restore the option for law enforcement to consider vehicle pursuits as required, removing the idea that criminals will not be challenged.

Additionally, we believe that public confidence in the judicial system will be enhanced by creating more transparency regarding the charging, bail conviction and sentencing decisions of local prosecutors and judges, and we encourage the Legislature to consider new requirements in that area.

We are committed to working within our coalition, and across the state with other groups like the South King County mayors, as well as members of law enforcement and social service providers, to develop bipartisan solutions for the 2023 legislative session. Making meaningful progress on public safety depends on everyone contributing to the solutions.

Thank you for your consideration of these suggestions.

Sincerely,

Mayor Cassie Franklin, City of Everett

Mayor Jon Nehring, City of Marysville

Mayor Russell Wiita, City of Sultan

Mayor Brett Gailey, City of Lake Stevens



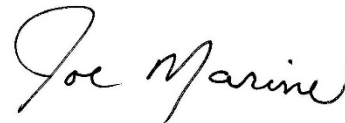
Mayor Dale Kaemingk, City of Brier



Mayor Dan Rankin, City of Darrington



Mayor Mike Nelson, City of Edmonds



Mayor Joe Marine, City of Mukilteo



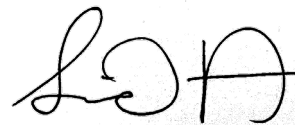
Mayor Christine Frizzell, City of Lynnwood



Mayor Kyoko Matsumoto Wright, City of Mountlake Terrace



Mayor Linda Redmon, City of Snohomish



Mayor Sid Roberts, City of Stanwood

Cc: Sen. Jesse Salomon  
Rep. Cindy Ryu  
Rep. Lauren Davis