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Subject: Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention
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Dear Council Member Herbold,

I am the President of the Seattle Parking Enforcement Officers' Guild. There have been numerous reports on social media and in print publications, but not confirmed by the City or SPD, that the Parking Enforcement division will be divested from the Seattle Police Department and moved to the Seattle Department of Transportation. I understand there is a proposal before Council to do so for the 2021 budget. I am writing to you to propose an alternative – one that will offer a win-win-win solution for the community-the Council-and the members of my Guild.

On July 31st, resolution 31962 was introduced. It proposed to establish “a civilian-led Department of Community Safety & Violence Prevention to remove certain functions from the Seattle Police Department”. On August 10th, this resolution was adopted by City Council.

Parking Enforcement Officers (PEOs) are unarmed civilians who currently work in the Seattle Police Department. In addition to enforcing the parking ordinances of the Seattle Municipal Code, PEOs also:

- Work in a technology-driven environment with sophisticated software and hardware
- Are an extremely diverse unit, over 60% of whom are BIPOC
- Multi lingual. We have PEOs who are fluent in Amharic, Tigrigna, Soninke, Swahili, Luganda, Cantonese, Spanish, French, Bulgarian, Swedish and Malay
- Have excellent communications skills that include de-escalation tactics to defuse tense situations
- Customer service driven. Respond and resolve complaints from community members and the City's Customer Service Request system
- Completed Race and Social Justice Initiative training
- Extremely knowledgeable about the geography of the City of Seattle
- Have passed an extensive background check
- Perform traffic control at special events and emergent situations
- Use and listen to police radio daily. Respond to radio calls
- Knowledgeable about police procedures
- Certified to use WACIC/Access databases, which require a background check
- Certified in CPR and First Aid

As you are the chair of the Public Safety and Human Service Committee, we respectfully ask that you consider our request to move Parking Enforcement to the newly formed Department of Community Safety & Violence Prevention. Because of our extensive training and experience in so many different areas, we would be a ready-made, valuable

training and experience in so many different areas, we would be a ready made, valuable and useful addition to the Department of Community Safety & Violence Prevention. As Council Member Dan Strauss tweeted, not every situation requires a response by a police officer with a gun. We agree: our duties could be expanded to replace many of the services that were formerly provided by sworn SPD officers. For example:

- Red light camera enforcement, which is similar to a parking ticket
- School zone enforcement, which are processed like parking tickets
- Respond to non-injury collisions, minor thefts and car break-ins to take the report and forward the report to SPD
- If Council adopts the wording of 46.61.050 of the RCW, PEOs could respond to any situation that requires traffic control, including intersections with traffic signals. This would allow us to take a larger role in traffic control for large special events, such as Seahawks games and parades.
- When responding to reports of abandoned vehicles or RVs with people living in them, PEOs could inform and assist those community members with available resources. In fact, PEOs are already working collaboratively with SPU, system navigators, field coordinators and civilian agencies in the RV remediation program.

If Parking Enforcement were moved to the Department of Community Safety & Violence Prevention, the City would realize substantial savings in recruitment, the hiring process, training, deployment locations and vehicles, and gain an already trained and highly capable workforce.

Like Council, we are committed to re-imagining policing. We hope you will consider our request. Please call me at (206) 794-1262 or email me if you have any questions. I would be more than happy to discuss this matter with you and/or present to the Council the advantages of this proposal and approach.

Regards,

Nanette Toyoshima
SPEOG President