



Oct. 14, 2022

The Honorable Jesse Salomon, State Senator, 32nd Legislative District
The Honorable Mark Mullet, State Senator, 5th Legislative District
c/o Washington State Senate
P.O. Box 40482
Olympia WA 98504-0482
Sent Via Electronic Mail

RE: *Follow-up on our discussion of Blake/drug possession legislation for 2023 & specific ideas*
Senators Salomon & Mullet:

We wanted to reiterate our profound thanks for the time you spent with our group of South King County mayors last Tuesday to discuss a mutual path forward for 2023 legislation to address the *Blake* case and issues around drug possession that are facing our state.

We share your firm belief that legislation must be enacted in 2023 to revise current law, establish accountability in state laws, and prevent full decriminalization of illicit drug use.

Our specific ideas for a *Blake* rewrite are as follows:

- Restore accountability to the system and remove what ends up being a voluntary approach with first- and second-offense diversions.
- Adopt an enforcement philosophy that enables law enforcement to take enforcement actions including a “custodial action” (arrest) when legally authorized and appropriate – our preference is for a gross misdemeanor.
- Establish court-driven solutions to prescribe treatment/services and:
 - Offer a deferred sentence on 1st and 2nd offenses, with a willingness to have this extended to additional offenses.
 - For offenders who accept, defer any sentence for those who enter a court-approved treatment program containing accountability requirements 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.
- Opioid settlement funding being provided to cities and counties could be used as a local match by all cities and counties receiving those proceeds.

- There should still be penalties for repeat offenders or those who refuse help and/or do not complete treatment/service programs.

Again, we offer up our sincere thanks for your time and your efforts. You have our commitment to join Snohomish County Mayors and others around the state, to activate key leaders in our communities, to advocate these solutions with our area state legislators, and to insist on solutions that will solve problems and get those suffering from substance use and addiction the treatment they need.

Sincerely,



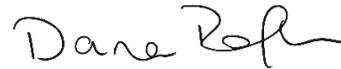
Mayor Armondo Pavone, City of Renton



Mayor Nancy Backus, City of Auburn



Mayor Jim Ferrell, City of Federal Way



Mayor Dana Ralph, City of Kent



Mayor Allan Ekberg, City of Tukwila