

May 23, 2024

Council Chair Jared Mead
Council Vice-Chair Nate Nehring
Council Member Megan Dunn
Council Member Strom Peterson
Council Member Sam Low

Dear Snohomish County Council:

Today, we ask the Snohomish County Council to approve an ordinance placing a sales tax measure on the November ballot to address public safety needs. The prevalence of violent crime, combined with the visible impacts of the ongoing drug epidemic, threatens community safety, our economy, the quality of life of our residents, and the vibrancy of our businesses. We need additional resources to address these critical issues to help Snohomish County thrive.

We recognize that these issues are complex and multi-faceted. While public safety remains one of the most consistent concerns we hear from constituents, we also know that we must proactively address the underlying issues that result in substance use disorder and remove some of the visible blight throughout the county.

We recognize that Snohomish County must support our law enforcement and criminal justice system partners to hold people accountable, while simultaneously supporting health and human services programs that assist people in turning their lives around. We understand that collaboration between our cities and Snohomish County is necessary for successful initiatives to improve public safety. We propose the following:

1. We are confident that most of our residents support additional investments in public safety, especially in the criminal justice system. We support the inclusion of a public safety sales tax proposal on the November 2024 general election ballot.
2. That Snohomish County actively engages with our cities and towns to identify ways to maximize access to desperately needed behavioral health facilities and programs to combat drug addiction and the fentanyl crisis.
3. That Snohomish County pursues an overall funding strategy that includes opportunities for federal or state appropriations and grants for programs to offset the direct tax burden placed on our residents and businesses.

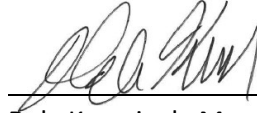
We understand that placing this measure on the ballot is not an easy decision; however, as the crisis deepens, a decision needs to be made now. Our communities need additional resources for progress to be made. We believe that a significant majority of the new revenue must be invested in new criminal justice system investments, including increasing the number of Sheriff's Deputies and Deputy

Prosecutors, and fortifying behavioral health infrastructure and programming. We all agree that we must act before the significant risks posed to our community by the current crisis become insurmountable. Ultimately, it will be up to the voters of Snohomish County to decide whether this sales tax proposal is the right vehicle to fund those additional investments.

Sincerely,



Don Vanney, Mayor of Arlington



Dale Kaemingk, Mayor of Brier



Dan Rankin, Mayor of Darrington



Mike Rosen, Mayor of Edmonds



Cassie Franklin, Mayor of Everett



Steve Yarbrough, Mayor of Gold Bar



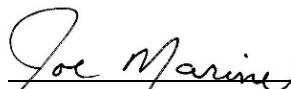
Brett Gailey, Mayor of Lake Stevens



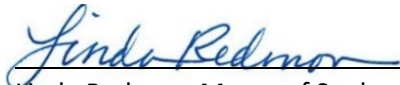
Jon Nehring, Mayor of Marysville



Geoffrey Thomas, Mayor of Monroe



Joe Marine, Mayor of Mukilteo



Linda Redmon, Mayor of Snohomish



Sid Roberts, Mayor of Stanwood



Russell Wiita, Mayor of Sultan



Mike Quinn, Mayor of Woodway

July 3, 2024

Council Chair Jared Mead
Council Vice-Chair Nate Nehring
Council Member Megan Dunn
Council Member Strom Peterson
Council Member Sam Low

RE: Amendments to PSST Ordinance

Dear Snohomish County Council:

Today, we are writing in support of proposed amendments to the Public Safety Sales Tax (PSST) ordinance currently under consideration by the County Council. This is a follow-up to the letter you received from fourteen Snohomish County mayors dated May 23, 2024. We believe it is critical to the success of the ballot measure that certain amendments are adopted prior to the final adoption of the ordinance.

First, we support an amendment increasing the minimum amount of funding that will go toward the criminal justice system. The criminal justice system (Sheriff, Prosecutor's Office, Public Defense, and Courts) has seen significant pressures in recent years and desperately needs additional investments to provide the level of service expected by our residents. When voters consider public safety investments, most of them will be thinking about these criminal justice departments/offices. You can build confidence with voters by requiring that a majority of the revenue received from the PSST is spent for criminal justice purposes.

Secondly, we are supportive of an amendment to require that a significant portion of the PSST revenues is spent on new investments in public safety (preventing supplanting of existing general fund expenditures). If we are to support the tax increase, we must be able to convince our constituents that they will see an increased level of service within the criminal justice and public safety realm.

These amendments will help us make the case to our residents that this tax increase will make meaningful impacts in our communities. Without the certainty provided by these amendments, we are concerned that voters will be less inclined to support these needed investments to keep our communities safe.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Arlington
WASHINGTON

A handwritten signature in blue ink, likely belonging to Mayor Don Vanney.

Mayor Don Vanney, Arlington



CITY OF
BRIER
ESTD 1965

A handwritten signature in blue ink, likely belonging to Mayor Dale Kaemingk.

Mayor Dale Kaemingk, Brier



A handwritten signature in blue ink, likely belonging to Mayor Dan Rankin.

Mayor Dan Rankin, Darrington



A handwritten signature in blue ink, likely belonging to Mayor Cassie Franklin.

Mayor Cassie Franklin, Everett



A handwritten signature in blue ink, likely belonging to Mayor Brett Gailey.

Mayor Brett Gailey, Lake Stevens



A handwritten signature in blue ink, likely belonging to Mayor Jon Nehring.

Mayor Jon Nehring, Marysville



A handwritten signature in blue ink, likely belonging to Mayor Joe Marine.

Mayor Joe Marine, Mukilteo



A handwritten signature in blue ink, likely belonging to Mayor Sid Roberts.

Mayor Sid Roberts, Stanwood



A handwritten signature in blue ink, likely belonging to Mayor Russell Wiita.

Mayor Russell Wiita, Sultan