

September 14, 2022

The Honorable Members of Snohomish County Council
3000 Rockefeller Avenue M/S 609
Everett, WA 98201

Dear Snohomish County Council Members,

We, the undersigned Snohomish County Mayors, write to urge your support for the Prosecuting Attorney's Office's 2023 budget request. The recent spike in homicides and other violent crimes in Snohomish County, and the impact of persistent and repeat felony offenders—particularly those who unlawfully possess and use firearms in furtherance of their criminal activity—is adversely affecting the social well-being and the quality of life for those who live and work in our cities. The responsive and fair prosecution of felony crimes in Snohomish County is essential to keeping our communities safe and livable and holding offenders accountable with timely and efficient justice.

The Snohomish County Prosecuting Attorney's Office is a critically important ally in our law and justice efforts. In this current, turbulent environment, however, their existing resources are inadequate to achieve an optimal level of public safety by way of felony prosecution. It is our understanding that the Prosecuting Attorney's Office has requested funding to hire Deputy Prosecutors and staff to specifically address the escalation in violent crime, the related and continuing scourge of gun violence, and the training needs of an unprecedented number of new employees in their office and in our local law enforcement agencies. We believe fully funding their 2023 budget request is an appropriate and necessary response to the community safety concerns of our citizens.

It is our intention to also work with the current and future County Prosecutors to develop metrics with which to measure progress in the areas cited. We realize that with additional resources should come additional accountability to the goals and commitments cited.

We are mindful that the task of allocating the County's finite fiscal resources is a tall one and requires difficult decision making. Nevertheless, the safety of our citizens is our number one priority and the prosecution of our most dangerous offenders is the surest path to community well-being. We strongly urge you to support the Prosecuting Attorney's Office's 2023 budget request.

Sincerely,



Handwritten signature of Mayor Sid Roberts.

Mayor Sid Roberts
City of Stanwood



MARYSVILLE

Handwritten signature of Mayor Jon Nehring.

Mayor Jon Nehring
City of Marysville



EVERETT

WASHINGTON

Handwritten signature of Mayor Cassie Franklin.

Mayor Cassie Franklin
City of Everett



Joe Marine

Mayor Joe Marine
City of Mukilteo



Russell Wiita

Mayor Russell Wiita
City of Sultan



Barbara Tolbert

Mayor Barbara Tolbert
City of Arlington



Brian Holtzclaw

Mayor Brian Holtzclaw
City of Mill Creek



Linda Redmon

Mayor Linda Redmon
City of Snohomish



Brett Gailey
Brett Gailey, Mayor

Mayor Brett Gailey
City of Lake Stevens



Dan Rankin

Mayor Dan Rankin
Town of Darrington



Michael Quinn

Mayor Mike Quinn
Town of Woodway



Christine Frizzell

Mayor Christine Frizzell
City of Lynnwood



Dale Kaemingk

Mayor Dale Kaemingk
City of Brier



Mike Nelson

Mayor Mike Nelson
City of Edmonds

cc: Executive Somers
Prosecuting Attorney Adam Cornell

SNOHOMISH COUNTY SHERIFF AND POLICE CHIEFS
ASSOCIATION

Representing Law Enforcement in Snohomish County

Sheriff Adam Fortney
SNOHOMISH COUNTY

Chief Jonathan Ventura
ARLINGTON

Chief Ken Seuberlich
BOTHELL

Chief Nick Almquist
BRIER

DARRINGTON

Chief Michelle Bennett
EDMONDS

Chief Dan Templeman
EVERETT

Chief Craig Hess
GOLD BAR

Chief Thomas Dalton
GRANITE FALLS

Chief Jeffrey Beazley
LAKE STEVENS

Chief Jim Nelson
LYNNWOOD

Chief Erik Scairpon
MARYSVILLE

Chief Stan White
MILL CREEK

Chief Jeff Jolley
MONROE

Chief Peter Caw
MOUNTLAKE TERRACE

Chief Cheol Kang
MUKILTEO

Chief Sherman Pruitt
SAUK-SUIATTLA

Chief Rob Palmer
SNOHOMISH

Chief Jason Toner
STANWOOD

Chief Matt Ecker
STILLAGUAMISH

Chief John Adams
SULTAN

Chief Chris Sutter
TULALIP

Chief Alan Correa
WOODWAY

Captain Jason Knott
WSP

September 27, 2022

Members of the Snohomish County Council and Executive Dave Somers

VIA Electronic Mail:

Re: Prosecuting Attorney's Office 2023 Budget Request

Dear Members of the Snohomish County Council and Executive Somers:

I write on behalf of the membership of the Snohomish County Sheriff and Police Chiefs' Association to urge your support for the Prosecuting Attorney's Office's 2023 budget request. The ability of our agencies to successfully protect and serve our county's citizens is intrinsically tied to the work of the Prosecuting Attorney's Office. Not only do we rely upon them for the review and prosecution of felony crimes in our county, but we also rely regularly on their assistance in furthering our investigations and providing training for our officers and deputies.

Our communities are at a critical public safety crossroads. Growing concern about an increase in homicides and other violent crimes and the impact of persistent and repeat felony offenders—particularly those who unlawfully possess and use firearms in furtherance of their criminal activity—is compounded by attrition in the law enforcement ranks and the attendant loss, in many cases, of decades of valuable experiential capital. Additionally, police and prosecutors have been required to modify and adapt their practices in the wake of recent, significant changes in the law. The Prosecuting Attorney's Office funding request is a critically important first step toward responsibly addressing these challenges.

The thorough, fair, and timely investigation and prosecution of felony crimes in Snohomish County is essential to both keeping our communities safe and livable, and to holding offenders accountable. The membership of the Snohomish County Sheriff and Police Chiefs' Association believes that fully funding the Prosecuting Attorney's 2023 budget request is an appropriate and necessary response to the specific needs of our agencies and the community safety concerns of our citizens. We strongly urge your support.

Sincerely,



Jonathan Ventura, President
Snohomish County Sheriff and Police Chiefs' Association
Chief of Police, Arlington Police Department

Adam Cornell
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY