

July 21, 2020

Dear Members of the Seattle City Council,

I am writing you today to express my concern over the speed with which you are moving to dismantle the core functions of our city government in the current proposal for the 50% cut the Seattle Police Department. I am worried that you are moving forward before sharing with the community what public safety outcomes you hope to achieve and what your plans are to ensure community safety. I expect my elected officials to enter any planning for the elimination or reduction of public safety programs with deliberation and inclusion. I am concerned that the speed with which you are moving will result in unintended consequences that could have grave outcomes, and work to undermine the important goals we all say we share. I want to know how the Council would design alternatives to the existing system, or how these new systems would be implemented in our communities.

I understand that this is a complex issue. Systemic racism coupled with a broken criminal justice system has done decades of immeasurable harm and has created a city in which too many people do not feel safe. It is time to move forward to plan and implement meaningful and effective change with these historical and present inequities firmly in mind. We must fight together now for a truly safe community, in which all people can safely live, work, visit and pursue their lives.

Sincerely,