

February 25, 2019

Dear Government Officials:

You recently received a document “System Failure- Report on Prolific Offenders in Seattle’s Criminal Justice System.” from multiple Seattle neighborhood districts including SODO.

For several years, we have raised concerns about growing public safety challenges on the streets of our neighborhoods. We have seen many earnest efforts by Seattle police officers to address these challenges, but the situation has only become worse. We have told government officials about the hazards they face every day – assaults on employees and customers, open-air drug activity at their front door, and erratic behaviors fueled by substance use disorders. Our local police officers are aware of these problems but tell us that there's not much more they can do.

The report provides meaningful insights into what's happening – Seattle's criminal justice system lacks basic accountability for the individuals that repeatedly commit crimes and for the leaders responsible for keeping our city safe.

A relatively small number of people with a huge impact on our neighborhoods are cycling through the criminal justice system without any meaningful prospect of changing their behavior. The answer, I believe, is wholesale reform of our city's criminal justice system led by you, our elected and appointed leaders.

I understand that this is a complex issue. However, we expect our municipal leadership to begin working on a long-term solution and take immediate action to reduce the impact these prolific offenders have upon our neighborhood.

Please act now and help us face the growing public safety challenges we are seeing every day.

Sincerely,