



City of Seattle
Mayor Jenny A. Durkan

November 14, 2018

John Searcy
Secretary-Treasurer, Teamsters Local 117
14675 Interurban Ave. S.
Ste. #307
Tukwila, WA 98168

Dear John:

As a former Teamster and a former federal law enforcement official, I wanted to personally reach out to you to convey my deep respect for our officers who put their lives on the line to keep our community and neighbors safe. As the U.S. Attorney for Western Washington, I worked with almost every law enforcement department in our state — and saw the great work done by every county, city, town, Port, Tribal and rural department. From Hoquiam, to Suquamish, from Clark County to Whatcom County, from Washington State Patrol to the Tukwila Police Department — and everything in between — I enjoyed an unprecedented level of cooperation and results from partnerships between federal, state and local law enforcement. Many of those relationships continue to help Seattle and our region as we face new and familiar challenges, from terrorism to criminal enterprises.

Recently, I had the honor of being the first Seattle Mayor to join the Chief of Police and meet with Seattle Police Officers' Guild membership and to take questions from rank and file, including about the Collective Bargaining Agreement. I deeply support our officers' ability to collectively bargain for fair wages, which is why I've worked so hard for a Tentative Agreement with our officers after four years without a contract.

In answering a question about officers being recruited by neighboring jurisdictions, I repeated my belief that we have the best trained, best qualified officers in the country and discussed the caliber of the work delivered by Seattle Police officers. During the discussion, I made an offhand jest about why I thought SPD offered the most challenging but most rewarding work of any local departments. It was never meant to impugn the hard work of the Port of Seattle Police Department or any other neighboring jurisdictions that keep our region safe and assist Seattle in myriad ways every day.

As you know, I worked with The Port of Seattle Police Department on numerous cases as U.S. Attorney. I know the crucial role they play in keeping our community safe. Please let your members know that I tremendously admire the work our local law enforcement does day in and day out to keep us safe, including those represented by Teamsters 117.

Sincerely,

Jenny A. Durkan
Mayor of Seattle