



September 13, 2021

Dear Seattle City Councilmembers,

We are writing on behalf of the Seattle Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and our 2,500 members to encourage you to pass Amendment 3B, allocating SPD salary savings to hiring bonuses and a retention incentive program, to the Midyear Supplemental Budget, CB 120112.

We appreciate Councilmember Pedersen's work to bring forward this amendment and Council's previous action to adopt Councilmembers Herbold and Mosqueda's Amendment 8 to the Midyear Supplemental Budget. Our community needs both timely responses from SPD and community safety alternatives to an armed officer response.

As passed prior to Council recess, Amendment 8 works to invest in programs and efforts to reform public safety and invest in community safety solutions. We applaud Council's work adopting this amendment and recognize that more must be done to improve SPD's response time and officer retention. We know not every 911 call should require an armed officer to respond, however, police are currently not meeting response-time targets for the most serious crimes.

While there are multiple factors that contribute to response time, officer retention and hiring are critical to ensuring those times do not worsen. For that reason, we encourage Council to adopt amendment 3B. The City needs a plan to retain officers and Councilmember Pedersen's amendment allocating funds towards a retention incentive program is a step in the right direction.

Sincerely,

Alicia Teel  
Senior Vice President of Public Affairs and Communications