



PROGRESSIVE ACTION IN WHATCOM, SKAGIT AND SAN JUAN COUNTIES

May 26, 2021

Dear Mayors, County Executive, Police Chiefs, and Sheriff,

When Bellingham, Lynden, Blaine, and Whatcom County renegotiate their collective bargaining agreements in 2021 with their respective law enforcement unions, we have a rare opportunity to take meaningful action to improve police accountability. That is why we call on you to ensure that the new collective bargaining agreements include critical provisions. Based on national research of key problems in police contracts, we urge you to negotiate for the following changes:

1. Eliminate any provisions removing written reprimands (including their descriptions) or other evidence of misconduct from personnel files. (Bellingham and Whatcom County)
2. Remove any language that delays a written statement or interrogation when law enforcement employees are investigated for misconduct, using deadly force, etc. (Bellingham and Whatcom County)
3. End the process of providing those under investigation copies of signed documents or transcripts of the interview. (Bellingham, Whatcom County, and Blaine)
4. Ensure individuals or boards accountable to the public have the final say in arbitration. (all current contracts)
5. Remove the obligation for cities to pay for officers' legal fees. (Lynden and Blaine)

Negotiating for these changes in the various union contracts will demonstrate to the people of Whatcom County that you take police accountability and public safety seriously. This is a critical moment in our history, and we're counting on you to fight for us at the negotiating table.

Sincerely,

Bob Burr

Lola Hudson

Eowyn Savela

Justin Woodum

Melissa Marteny

Linda White

Lee Che Leong	Dena Jensen	Robert Norton
Krystal Rodriguez	Carmen Gilmore	Robert Johnson
Kim Ninneman	Lucila Jackman	Elizabeth Hartsoch
Thomas Perkow	Sarah Jones	Sylvia Graham
Tim Marteny	Sandy Robson	Alan McConchie
Dylan Becker	Markis Dee	Candice Cross
Mara Grubb	Sandi Heinrich	Bonnie Hall
Towhee Wean	Debra David	Jonathan Scanlon
Liisa Wale	Heather Korbmacher	Liz Darrow
Imma Phelon	Debbi Anderson-Frey	Hannah Enich
Jack Meehoff	Suzanne Munson	Annie Patrick
Shanna Leeland	Carol Lager	Kevin Probasco
Rebekah Jayne	Richard Donnelly	Amanda Zimmerman
Heather Vredevoogd	Darrell Phare	Clover Martin
Josh Cerretti	Bill Angel	David Crook
Celeste Monke	Peter Holcomb	William Schenken
Suzanne Gray	Behnoosh Armani	Liz Isaly
Laura Steiger	Lana Worley	Cory
Louis Burrell	Leland Anderson	Bridget McShane
Mary Stidham	Laura Norton	Darlene Giblin
Teizeen Mohamedali	Courtenay Chadwell	Aimee
Amy Malone	Emily Yale Wynne	Jennifer Wright

Alisa Sachs	Patty Keene	Simon Bakke
Heather	Annie Prevost	Felicia Aranda
Nathan Carnes	Leanna Kanda	Greg Verbarends
Ashley Aiken	Charlton "Peach" Tarver	Geneva Blake
Jessica Waaga	Ronda Good	Roxanne Kay
Amy McGregor	Bob Johnson	Maureen Traxler
Jesi Van Leeuwen	Erin Fortenberry	Kay Gardner
Olivia Slama	Arlene Feld	Amy Glasser
Jil Mullins	Jennifer Mansfield	Anna Dorough
Karen Phillips	Behnoosh Armani	Camaran Martin
Corina Hancock	Sara O'Conner	Kati Chapman
Treasure Samual	Mary Burrell	Terrence Morris
Susan Mulligan	Bryan Sharick	John Romankiewicz
Kristina Michele	Dana Weigel	Kate Yamamoto
Christy Nieto	Nasreen Mughal-Barrows	Kristal McKinstry
Julie Battan	April Baum	James Waterhouse
Jeannine Heidenreich	Arrissia Owen Turner	Desiree Pack
Stephanie Allen	Cally Huttar	Kelsey Andrews
Maureen Kane	Andrea Eventoff	Eileen Herring
Jennifer Gruenert	Gail Adderley	Morgan Kay
David J Beaumier	Stephanie Clark	Amy Chesbrough