



# SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL

June 3, 2020

Dear Mayor Durkan and City Attorney Holmes:

CC: Seattle Police Chief Carmen Best, US District Judge James Robart

The Seattle City Council urges you to withdraw the motion to terminate the Consent Decree that you filed on May 7, 2020 in coordination with President Trump's US Department of Justice.

Over the last week, we have personally witnessed and heard reports from thousands of our constituents about how the Seattle Police Department has been targeting #JusticeForGeorgeFloyd protesters with flagrant and excessive use of force. It is deeply ironic that people protesting police brutality and violence were met with more police brutality and violence.

After the Seattle police riot on Saturday, May 30, 2020, the Office of Professional Accountability received more than 12,000 complaints of police misconduct. There have been reports of indiscriminate use of teargas, flashbang grenades, mace, and beatings. Many peaceful protesters, exercising their first amendment rights, were brutally injured by this excessive force.

We do not believe that the Seattle Police Department should in any circumstance be allowed to use intimidation and violence to prevent protesters from exercising their free speech rights. The officers who engaged in brutality or who taped over their badge numbers must be disciplined or fired.

We believe the events of the last few days renewedly demonstrate how far the Seattle Police Department has to go to be reformed to the standards that could permit a termination of the consent decree.

We stand with our constituents, outraged at the police murder of George Floyd, and we are horrified by the excessive force used by the Seattle police to suppress these protests.

While we don't believe that the consent decree is sufficient by itself in the absence of further substantial reform, lifting the consent decree points dangerously away from a direction of reform. The consent decree has provided much needed attention to ongoing, systematic police violence in Seattle, which continues to plague black and brown communities. And the decree itself was won due to enormous grassroots momentum. To remove that scrutiny, particularly at this moment when so many of our constituents have experienced police brutality, and a number of community organizations oppose removing it, would be completely



# SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL

counterproductive. It would send a terrible message to the public, and would undermine efforts to address these deeply rooted issues.

Right now, City leaders urgently need to rebuild trust with the residents of Seattle, and that begins with you withdrawing the City's motion to terminate the Consent Decree.

Sincerely,

---

Council President Lorena González

---

Councilmember Lisa Herbold

---

Councilmember Debora Juarez

---

Councilmember Andrew J. Lewis

---

Councilmember Lisa Herbold

---

Councilmember Tammy J. Morales

---

Councilmember Teresa Mosqueda

---

Councilmember Kshama Sawant

---

Councilmember Dan Strauss