



# TACOMA POLICE UNION LOCAL NO. 6

P.O. BOX 11265 • TACOMA, WA 98411-1265 • (253) 272-2119

TACOMALOCAL6@GMAIL.COM WWW.TACOMA6.COM

## TOGETHER, WE CAN SOLVE TACOMA'S PUBLIC SAFETY CRISIS

Tacoma's hard working families and businesses depend on our police department to keep them safe 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Our officers **put their lives on the line** to protect our neighborhoods from increasing crime, drug use and gang activity.

Our city should have the best police department in the state, but we are **falling far behind** other cities like Seattle. While Seattle is three times larger than Tacoma, our city has higher rates of violent crime and a higher percentage of felons, with just 1/5 of Seattle's police force.

Tacoma Police Department has never been able to replace officers and detectives lost years ago during recession budget cuts. Our police are **doing everything they can** to protect and serve our neighborhoods with limited resources, but it's not enough. **Neighborhood crime, drug use, and gang violence are increasing because:**

- **We don't have enough police officers on the streets**
  - Due to budget cuts, it takes 2 minutes longer than in 2011 for police to respond in an emergency.
  - Visible proactive police presence is needed to check gang activity, but there are not enough officers to patrol our neighborhoods - most are busy responding to 911 calls.
- There's a huge **backlog of uninvestigated reported crimes**
  - We have only 37 detectives responsible for handling more than 30,000 cases each year
  - Unsolved crimes means offenders are free to commit more crimes against more people
- Not enough officers are available for **crime prevention programs and building community trust**
  - Outreach to at-risk kids, helping people in crisis, and building strong community policing programs are important parts of preventing criminal activity.
  - Establishing communication and action protocols with communities, such as active shooter situations and school lockdowns.

We must **rebuild our police department** to keep up with Tacoma's growing population and crime rates and to prevent a serious public safety crisis.

- Tacoma Police Department needs to replace at least 45-50 retiring officers and hire at least 25-30 officers per year over the next 4 years to reach minimum staffing levels.
- We must invest in strengthening communication and community policing to build trust and prevent crime.

For more information, please visit: [www.Tacoma6.com](http://www.Tacoma6.com).