



TACOMA POLICE UNION LOCAL NO. 6

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PRESS RELEASE

RE: Potential Layoffs of Tacoma Police Union Local 6 Members

Today, the Chief of Police sent an email to department employees concerning the potential for layoffs of department members. 56 of these potential layoffs impact Local 6 members. Local 6 is the bargaining unit for employees of the ranks of officer, detective, and sergeant.

It is our opinion that this level of cuts will have a detrimental impact on the current level of public safety in the City of Tacoma. The Interim City Manager has erred in making these cuts to public safety rather than in some other portion of the city budget including access to the reserve funds.

The level of services our members provide to the citizens of Tacoma will be greatly reduced. The core of the department is the patrol division. The department must maintain an adequate level of staffing to ensure citizen and officer safety. If 56 people are removed from patrol staffing, our members who are currently assigned as community liaison officers, school resource officers, traffic officers, gang unit officers, and narcotics officers will have to fill the vacancies in patrol staffing.

Proactive policing is the goal of every police department. If the city reduces staffing to the extent proposed, our staffing levels will only allow for reactive policing. The aforementioned proactive units will either be severely curtailed or eliminated. Each one of these specialty units provides essential services to the citizens of Tacoma.

As a citizen, imagine not being able to call your CLO to address a neighborhood problem, not having an officer at your high school, not having a unit to address traffic issues or gang problems, or not having a unit that investigates illegal narcotics and prostitution (including child trafficking).

The department's commitment to community oriented policing and the neighborhood partnerships we have worked to develop over the past two decades will suffer. It is imperative that the Interim City Manager reconsider this method of addressing a perceived budget shortfall.

Terry Krause
President Local 6