



SEATTLE POLICE FOUNDATION
Partnership for a Safe Seattle

JUNE NEWSLETTER

A Message From the Board Chair, Charles Huber

In the aftermath of the death of George Floyd's and similar high-publicity police use of force incidents, public attention rightfully turns to the underlying inequities of society. But these events can also drive anger toward all police officers, with unwarranted and dangerous results. Fairness demands we all maintain objectivity in our assessments of officers and departments. That objectivity, however, is often missing in our current discourse.

The Seattle Police Foundation, an organization independent of SPD, is made up of caring citizens from all walks of life who have the goal of providing funding for training, equipment and community programs that the city cannot provide. We want to ensure Seattle is a global leader in progressive, safe policing. As Chairman I speak for the entire board when I say what happened to George Floyd was utterly intolerable and those officers are rightly being held accountable as they face charges. We understand and share the community's outrage.

We also speak in support of Seattle Police officers. They are moms and dads, spouses and partners, daughters and sons who serve our citizens with honor, dignity, bravery and heartfelt care. They are committed to the welfare of our city and its people. Indeed, they are on the front lines to protect our right to free speech while also protecting our property and lives.

No profession feels the dramatic swing of public support that police officers experience. In times of dire need or danger they are hailed as heroes, as when officers rushed in to stop a mass shooting and save lives at Seattle's 3rd and Pine in January. In times like the present, however, some claim that all police are villains. The truth is that like all professions the vast majority of Seattle police officers strive daily to do their jobs correctly and fairly, often heroically, sometimes poorly. Denigrating all officers is unfounded, unfair and not sensible. We know that stereotyping is dangerous and malignant; to stereotype police officers based upon the misdeeds of a few is simply unfair. Citizens of Seattle, your officers remain committed to your safety and the equitable and just performance of their duties.

That truth is captured in our officers' daily efforts. Officers spend vastly more time helping people than confronting them. For example, officers routinely interact with the unsheltered to provide social services opportunities. They help citizens in danger, traumatized, and vulnerable. They coach youth athletics and mentor kids. Two Seattle officers created Beds for Kids, a movement to provide beds and mattresses so children don't have to sleep on the floor. These everyday, community-building efforts get little or no publicity, yet they exemplify our officers' quiet, consistent and conscientious contributions.

In addition, over the past decade the Seattle Police Department has made great strides in use of force reform, de-escalation training and addressing institutional racism. It is now one of, if not the, most progressive police departments in the nation. While no department is ever perfect, Seattle leads the way in developing and improving the very systemic reforms that society now demands for a more just and equitable system.

Our nation is awakening to longstanding, ugly inequities. We must find a way to ensure that equality – the birthright of every person – is a reality, no matter how difficult the path. To that end, we need exemplary, well-trained police. The Seattle Police Foundation supports our officers in this need so they can better support our whole community. We encourage all to recognize the extraordinary work our officers do every day, particularly in these trying times. The Foundation is committed to continuing to work with the community and the Department to achieve a safe and just Seattle for everyone, and to ensure a bright future of excellent, equitable policing.



How You Can Show Support

Seattle Police officers are on the front lines continuing to work tirelessly around the clock as our community battles COVID-19. So many of our supporters have asked how they can show officers how much their work is appreciated. We've compiled a list of ways you can let officers know you care below.

Send a message of support. Send an email to info@SeattlePoliceFoundation.org and we'll share it with officers.

Make a donation in honor of an officer. [Donate to SPF's greatest need fund](#) and we'll make sure that officers are provided with everything they need to continue their work.

Set up an account with AmazonSmile. When you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate .5% of the purchase price of eligible products to SPF.

Send card or letters of support to the SPD precincts. Send your message to the precinct of your choice by mailing them to: Seattle Police Department ([Precinct of your choice](#)) PO Box 34986, Seattle, WA 98124-4986

Purchase a gift card and send it to SPF. Purchase a gift card to a local restaurant and we'll make sure it's used to show officers the community cares about them.

Send messages to Seattle City Council members letting them know you



Mourning Badge Update

In June we reached out to the community and asked for support to fund the purchase of custom mourning badges for SPD officers that clearly show badge numbers. Because of your generosity, we quickly exceeded our goal of \$70k and have raised more than \$103,000 to date. All funds raised beyond our goal will be invested in replacing officer safety equipment that was damaged or destroyed during the riots. SPF has already purchased replacement EMT kits, a damaged forensic kit, and bike parts/officer safety gear belonging to the bike squad with the funds.

Your donation has sent a clear and strong message to SPD officers that the community they protect and serve still values them.

On behalf of the entire board and staff at the Seattle Police Foundation, we wish to say a very humble “thank you” for your generosity. We are grateful for your partnership in our mission to create a safer Seattle and for letting the brave women and men of SPD know that the community has their back.

For more information on contributing to this fund, click [here](#).



Custom Metal Enclosed Frames Grant

The main hallway wall of the Seattle Police Department South Precinct serves as a memorial for fallen officers. Small magnets were used to display the programs from the memorial services of fallen officers such as Officer Timothy Brenton and dozens more. Most of the programs displayed have been collected by personnel who have attended these services personally. The walls have been created to respect and honor those who have given the ultimate sacrifice. Due to the heavy traffic and small size of the hallway, programs have been knocked off the wall and damaged.

In 2019, SPF issued a grant provided the South Precinct with the funds to purchase three large custom-made enclosed frames to protect the precinct's "In Memoriam" wall. The custom frames were installed last week and now allow each of the programs to be displayed with integrity.

"The displays on this wall have been created to respect and honor those who have given the ultimate sacrifice. Furthermore, they serve as a daily reminder to those who walk the precinct's hallways, as officers exit roll call and prepare to go in-service, as to our duty and responsibility to continue to hold the line in their absence." said grant applicant Detective Nick Kartes.



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