



# City of Seattle

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Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor  
Seattle Police Department  
R. Gil Kerlikowske, Chief of Police

September 17, 2007

Dear Members of the Seattle Community:

Mayor Nickels this afternoon presented his budget to the City Council. The budget reflects his priority and commitment to public safety and sworn personnel, and I want to take this opportunity to complement the Mayor's remarks related to the Seattle Police Department.

Seattle continues to be safe, and relative to violent crimes, ranks the 9<sup>th</sup> safest city among the 25 largest cities in the nation. The number of serious crimes in Seattle last year declined to a level not seen since 1976. Earlier this year, the Mayor and I announced a new effort to make Seattle even safer. Its called Neighborhood Policing, and it represents the biggest change in how we deploy our officers in a generation.

A key element of that plan is adding 105 additional officers over the next five years – 20 of those positions will be added in 2008. That means more feet on the street in neighborhoods across our city, allowing police to respond faster in an emergency and providing officers more time to work on crime prevention in our communities. In order to house the additional officers, a search for a new location to expand the North Precinct will also be conducted as the existing precinct is far too small to hold the currently assigned personnel, much less the additional officers that will be added under the Neighborhood Policing plan.

When a hotspot of crime and public disturbances makes an area feel unsafe, we didn't wait to respond. Last month we launched an emphasis patrol to insure that our streets remain safe for those who live and work downtown. The Mayor's budget continues that effort by providing nearly \$1 million for stepped up police presence in our Center City and in portions of the Rainier Valley.

The Mayor's budget also seeks to ensure the safety of pedestrians and motorists, and permanently install red light cameras at 18 new intersections to hold accountable drivers who ignore red lights.

Finally, the Mayor has added money to provide a \$5,000 salary incentive to attract recruits. This is one more promising factor that can be used to attract new police recruits to Seattle as we continue to search for potential candidates in our community and throughout the nation.

Mayor Nickels' budget speech can be found at [www.seattle.gov/mayor](http://www.seattle.gov/mayor).

Sincerely,

R. Gil Kerlikowske  
Chief of Police



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