



Seattle Police Officers' Guild
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PRESS RELEASE

September 20, 2018

TO: All Media Outlets

FM: Kevin Stuckey
Seattle Police Officers' Guild

RE: **SPOG Membership Overwhelmingly Votes to Accept Contract Offer**

The Seattle Police Officer's Guild is pleased to announce that our membership of 1320 members has voted overwhelmingly to ratify the new contract offer. Ballots were counted today and 1013 of the 1059 returned ballots voted to accept the contract offer. The ratification vote marks the end of over three and a half years of contract negotiations between the City of Seattle and the Guild. The contract will be retroactive to January 1, 2015 and will be in effect until December 31, 2020. The contract contains significant wage increases, changes to the OPA disciplinary system to include the new Inspector General position and two civilian investigators for the Office of Police Accountability, and the acceptance of the Body Worn Video Camera Program. As a result of this agreement SPOG will be withdrawing all of the Unfair Labor Practice Complaints concerning Body Worn Video, Accountability Legislation, and Civilians in OPA.

SPOG would like to thank Mayor Jenny Durkan, who inherited this "contract mess" from her two predecessors, who unfortunately, did not choose to respect the labor laws of Washington. From the onset, Mayor Durkan made getting a new SPOG contract a top priority and her team followed her leadership and got the work done at the bargaining table.

SPOG would also like to thank Chief Carmen Best, who was the first Chief to attend numerous negotiation sessions, and who constantly urged both sides to reach an agreement.

Most importantly, SPOG would like to thank the men and women of the Seattle Police Officer's Guild, who went to work each day, even though they were working without a contract and had not received a pay raise in nearly four years. Their dedication and sacrifice to the City of Seattle is second to none.

Sergeant Rich O'Neill, Seattle Police Guild Vice President and Lead Negotiator remarked, "This marks the end of a long negotiation process. This contract recognizes the hard work done by all Seattle Police Officers and rightfully compensates them as the highest paid officers in Washington State. It is my hope that this new deal will assist in recruiting and retaining officers for the Seattle Police Department. The contract also illustrates, once again, that SPOG is willing to accept changes to the accountability system as long as that change is achieved at the bargaining table and both sides bargain in good faith."

For more information contact SPOG at 206-767-1150.

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