



Seattle City Council

Robert Kettle, District 7

August 10, 2026

Mayor Katie Wilson
600 4th Ave
Seattle, WA

Mayor Wilson,

The tragedy that recently unfolded during the Bite of Seattle at Seattle Center on July 26 has underscored the need for a procedural review— beyond the expected “After-Action Report.” With three fatalities, several injuries, and the impact on attendees — indeed, the entire city — we need to identify and discuss the lessons learned at both the operational level (immediate response and the ongoing investigation) and the strategic level. Our constituents, the many diverse communities we collectively serve, are entitled to answers.

At the strategic, policy level, we need to look at how we as a city ensure major venues and major events are safe for all who attend. Specifically, we need to ask questions such as:

- What is the current security status of our major venues and large events, given that they often occur back-to-back, on an annual basis?
- How can we employ a “Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design” (CPTED) approach to help improve the public safety posture of our major venues and events?
- How did our ongoing challenges with staffing, outside support/mutual aid, camera technology, and communication impact operational coordination and government response?
- What are the lessons of the successful use of the CCTV program and the Real Time Crime Center in the Stadium District and in Pioneer Square?

Further, and even more importantly, I strongly believe that we need to focus on how this shooting is part of an existing pattern of unsolved gun violence involving our young people, and how this, sadly, is the latest in a long line of tragedies.

The above questions and how the City can better leverage our capacities to include our technology program will be the basis of a Public Safety Committee on September 22nd.

Thank you,

Robert E Kettle
Seattle City Councilmember, District 7
CC: Deputy Mayor Brian Surratt;
Director of Public Safety Alison Holcomb
Council President Joy Hollingsworth