

## **Crime**

What has gone wrong in Seattle and surrounding cities and the rest of the State of Washington is crime is not being prosecuted or enforced.

With complicity from elected officials and the media, the call to reduce funding of the police, while ignoring the impact and damage that it would cause to Seattle and the State of Washington, makes me highly motivated to do something about the problem. What I am seeing now with the claim that “all the police” are racists and with elected officials continuing to beat that same drum, it shows the major disconnect between elected officials and their citizens. We all fundamentally know that 99% of police are very good people who risk their lives daily, who are not racists, and who use proper force on persons who are resisting arrest. We can improve policing by eliminating the few police officers who should not be serving as an officer; however, reducing police funding will result in cataclysmic safety risks for the public. People will have to fend for themselves, and we simply cannot live peacefully this way.

We need to enforce laws that we already have, not enforcing existing laws has led to increased physical crime, property crime, and death of our law enforcement personnel.

### **The Homeless Problem:**

From an engineering point of view the chart below shows the problem, Fentanyl OD deaths per year went from about 5,000 in 2015 to currently over 70,000. One- and one-half times more people between the ages of 18-49 during the Covid pandemic died from Fentanyl than from Covid. Hard drug use and not enforcing the drug laws is what is driving the homeless problem, would you give a drug addict relative shelter in your house?

It is people with compassion but a lack of understanding that are making the problem worse. Buy not prosecuting for possession of hard drugs and allowing shoplifting to buy drugs, creating housing where you can freely use drugs and alcohol, and only offer voluntary treatment (voluntary treatment is like leaving your 3-year-old alone in a room with a bowl of candy and telling him to take only one). Seattle and King County are the perfect example of how this does not work, and the rest of the State of WA is following Seattle’s lead.

What needs to be done is enforce the hard drug laws and shoplifting laws. When they are confined, we must force them off drugs, give them treatment, and once they are off drugs try to get family or friends to take them in. You will actually save more lives, reduce the number of homeless, and reduce crime with enforcement, now that is real compassion and caring.