



LETTER OF AGREEMENT

Between

City of Bellingham

And

Local 1937

Guild of Pacific Northwest Employees

Use of Private Security Guards and Safety Patrols For Night-time Park Security and the City's Commercial and Railroad Street Garages

- I. **PURPOSE:** The purpose is to memorialize the agreement regarding the City's use of private security guards and safety patrols at various City premises in order to better protect and preserve the safety of our employees, enhance public safety services and reduce vandalism and destruction of City property. The intent is to supplement and not supplant current security staff.
- II. **SCOPE:** This agreement covers security work throughout the City's parks and in the City's Commercial and Railroad Street Garages.
- III. **AGREEMENT:**

WHEREAS, Bellingham has seen a dramatic increase in the use of illegal drugs in City-owned facilities and open spaces;

WHEREAS, our communities are struggling with the impacts of a regional and nation-wide fentanyl and meth use crisis manifesting locally, specifically resulting in more frequent unpredictable and unacceptable behavior from some residents in our City-owned facilities and open spaces;

WHEREAS, Bellingham has experienced heightened safety-related issues in City parks during night-time hours and outside regular business hours over the past several years including an increase in disruptive behaviors. The City's use of contracted security patrols overnight has reduced unauthorized camping, and lessened sanitation issues, which has been appreciated by City staff. When the grounds are unmonitored, the City has experienced an increase in disruptive safety issues, including unauthorized camping, sanitation concerns, obstructions to building access, and maintenance and cleanup needs that place a strain on City facilities and staff. Overnight and early morning security services help deter illegal and unsafe behaviors during unstaffed/closed hours, ensure public pathways and building access remains clear and safe, and improve the safety and usability of park property for all.

Whereas, the City's Commercial and Railroad Street garages have increasingly become magnets for illegal and unsafe behaviors which significantly impede the ability of the public and employees to use these facilities. The City's use of contracted security patrols has helped deter illegal and unsafe behaviors, helped ensure the facilities remain clear and safe, and improved the usability of the garages for all.

Whereas, the parties are committed to the safety of the community and to the City's employees.

NOW, THEREFORE, the parties agree that:

- The City may contract with private security guards or safety patrols to patrol the City's parks during nighttime hours.
- The City shall not contract for security services beyond that specified in this Letter of Agreement.
- The parties agree to meet by June 30, 2026, to discuss longer-term solutions and next steps.
- The City agrees to provide Local 1937 with copies of any/all security contracts related to the scope of service described in this Letter of Agreement that are entered into during the duration of this Letter of Agreement.
- The City may contract with private security guards or safety patrols to patrol the City's Commercial and Railroad Street Garages.
- The parties agree that no bargaining unit member or current bargaining unit work will be displaced by contractors performing work covered under this Letter of Agreement.
- The City agrees to help Park Ambassadors, who recently received lay-off notices and who are interested in getting on the Civil Service Register, understand the process for applying for the Register. The Union agrees that it will direct interested Park Ambassadors to Human Resources through the HR email which is hr@cob.org. Park Ambassadors who apply for any open City positions will be considered in good faith by the City, recognizing the City is not obligated to hire any unqualified personnel.
- Any disputes pertaining to the terms of this agreement shall be resolved through the CBA grievance procedure.

- The work covered under this agreement includes work performed between the hours between 4:00 pm through 8:00 am from date of execution through December 31, 2026.

DATED, this ____ day of _____, 2025 for **Local 1937**:

Jenny Eakins, President
Local 1937

DATED, this ____ day of _____, 2025 for the City:

Deborah Danner,
Human Resources Director