



Bellevue Police Foundation

SPECIAL NOTICE | OCTOBER 2022

Let Your City Council Know Public Safety is Our Priority

Right now, your Bellevue City Council is deliberating the city's \$2.2 billion bi-annual budget for 2023/2024. This budget includes the first significant increase for public safety in over a decade. [Click on this link](#) to view the presentation made by Police Chief Shirley and Fire Chief Hagen to City Council on October 3rd. (The presentation begins at the one hour mark.)

We ask you to join us in supporting the budget for public safety by making your views known to the city council.

A public hearing on the budget will be on Monday, November 7th at 6 p.m. and you can [sign up](#) to attend online or go in person to city hall. Or, you may provide comments to the Council in advance via email at council@bellevuewa.gov.

[Click here](#) to see a short video about the changing needs in Bellevue and how our Police Department is responding to that change.

Please read on to learn more about the details of the police budget request and how Bellevue Police is working to keep Bellevue residents, workers and visitors as safe as possible.

In all, the Police Department is looking to add 21 officers to its ranks, 19 of whom will be sworn officers. This will allow the department to form two important units for transit patrol and homelessness outreach as well as additional officers to handle the uptick in sophisticated organized crime rings. Read more details below.

Community Crisis Assistance Team (CCAT)

Bellevue Police and Fire have been working together since 2020 to determine how to best provide services that are compassionate yet provide safety when situations become dangerous for people experiencing homelessness or a mental health crisis. In 2021, Police and Fire worked together to pilot the CCAT team, which paired certified mental health workers from Fire CARES with plainclothes police officers to answer calls related to homelessness and mental health crises.

The CCAT team is specially trained to offer appropriate services and officers can give a higher level of follow up to people who need extra help. The pilot achieved great results, including multiple de-escalations of potentially dangerous situations.

Sophia Way and Congregations for the Homeless are two community organizations that have developed strong relationships with Bellevue



Police and Fire to help serve their staff and clients. Both organizations have expressed their support for the CCAT team. To see the CCAT Team in action, please [click on this link](#) to view a video.

We believe the CCAT Team is a necessary ingredient in Police and Fire's plan to help those who are experiencing homelessness, mental health crisis and other related issues. Please contact your city council if you agree.

Eastlink Transit Team

Sound Transit plans to open its Eastlink Transit stations in mid-2024 which will further regionalize Bellevue as a major eastside transit hub. There will be six stations in Bellevue that connect between Redmond and Seattle to handle daily commuter traffic both intra and inter-city. It's anticipated that people commuting from other eastern cities will come to Bellevue to go further into Seattle by train. In fact, ridership is expected to bring 52,000 people per day into Bellevue and the trains will run at eight minute intervals during peak hours.

Usage of the stations is anticipated to increase dramatically during sporting events, concerts, 4th of July and other special events such as the Rock N Roll Marathon. Protests would also create a surge in train traffic.

Bellevue Police Department has proposed an Eastlink Transit Unit to be visibly dedicated to patrolling the platforms, restrooms and Park & Ride parking lots. They will be available to respond to issues on and around the trains immediately and will provide rapid response to large-scale events. This unit will receive special training on equipment and access points and will also serve as liaison among the many constituent agencies, groups and associations that are impacted by Light Rail.

Data collected from other regional cities that have opened Light Rail stations shows that an increase in crime can occur. We want police presence at the stations not only as a deterrent, but also to respond quickly to calls for support to residents and others traveling within Bellevue and beyond.

Please let your city council know if you agree!



Additional officers

We all can easily see that Bellevue is growing fast. The resident population is up almost 25% over the past 12 years. The daytime worker population has also increased dramatically as companies both large and small make Bellevue their hub of business operations. We also have more events that call on police than ever before, like the recent Rock N Roll Marathon.

While this is exciting on many levels, growth also comes with an uptick in crime including organized theft rings that target our retailers. However, the number of officers on patrol has remained flat over that same 12 years.



The police department needs additional officers to meet these needs and to maintain the high standards in place for response times and community engagement. They also need to conduct anti-crime operations that target organized theft and other sophisticated criminals.

The department has been very successful with these anti-crime operations. For example, in the past six months, officers have arrested more than 50 shoplifting suspects at The Home Depot alone. Several other organized retail theft crews have been busted at high-end retailers and malls.

Please tell the city council if you agree we need additional officers to meet our growing city needs!

Donate to Support Your Police, but Really, Contact Your City Council First!

Bellevue Police Foundation fosters business and community support to fund equipment, training, tools of accountability and efforts that build connections between the Police Department and the community. You can help provide critical support by donating now.

[**Donate Now**](#)