

High Demand and High Performance

Paul Pastor

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If you have been following the news, you know that these past several weeks have been difficult for Pierce County communities and for the Sheriff's Department. Since the first of the year, we have had a total of 12 homicides including the murder of our Deputy Daniel McCartney. Five of the homicides occurred in the last two weeks.

We have seen more than our usual share of heartbreak and ruined lives. And our people have responded again and again to difficult, tremendously sad incidents. Some involving children murdered by parents and some involving troubled adult children who have murdered their parents.

This is not a matter of people seeking to hurt strangers. It is largely of specific targeting of people known to one another.

Last night, we had an officer-involved shooting involving a young man who was extremely agitated and violent and trying to carjack drivers on Mountain Hwy. Our Deputy reportedly tried to back pedal and talk but the man rushed at him with the knife he was using to try to smash into the windows of occupied cars. He was shot and killed. Again, our people must assume a burden that they wish they were not forced to assume.

Our Patrol Deputies and especially our Detectives and Forensic Investigators are very weary. They feel like they have been dealing with crisis after crisis while their other important but routine work has had to wait. (And the personnel of the Medical Examiner's Offices and our Call Receivers and Dispatchers must feel the same way.)

Hard stuff. Wearing stuff. But I am continually impressed by the way that they keep responding time after time and keep striving to serve. Here's just one example: A little over a week ago one of our patrol deputies responded to a report of a car theft at a residence on South Hill. The car was stolen from a recently-arrived Army family and the victim's husband was away on duty. The stolen car contained the victim's house keys, wallet, credit and debit cards, and identification. The family had just moved from New York a couple of weeks earlier and the wife/mom did not know anyone in the area; now they had no access to their money or their vehicle.

Our deputy went to a hardware store, bought new locks for her house with his own money, and worked with a neighbor to install them so that the family could feel safe in their residence. Another deputy was able to recover her stolen vehicle the following day.

Our deputy chose to not include his act of compassion in his report; when his sergeant found out about it, the deputy humbly requested to not be named or recognized. The men and women I get to work with do tremendous things. Some of the terrible things they have to confront make the news. Many of their "above and beyond" acts of service and compassion do not. The same men and women are out there doing both things.

And I will tell you this: I am proud, and humbled and grateful for who they are and what they do.

Tacoma Annexation of Browns Point & Dash Point Key Questions

1. **Sewers Mandated?** Will residents who do not have sewer service be mandated to connect to public sewers and what would be the cost and timeline? (Tacoma regulations require sewer hookups by all residents.)
2. **Sewer Rates?** Will we be required to pay Tacoma sewer rates (which are roughly 2x the water rates?) By how much will sewer rates be increased, on average?
3. **Increased Taxes?** What will be the difference in property taxes? Business taxes? Sales taxes? What other fees, levies, taxes, and the like will apply?
4. **Zoning Changes? Non-conforming uses?** What are the key differences in the zoning, building, and shoreline regulations? What are the specific differences in such matters as setbacks, shoreline buffer areas, permitting fees, ADUs, duplexes, and neighborhood centers? If buildings become non-conforming, what are the expansion limitations? Will we be allowed to have our own community plan as we do now, and how will it be established?
5. **Fire Service and Stations?** Will the Browns Point/Dash point fire stations remain in operation? Will the volunteer fire department and training programs be allowed to continue? What will happen to our stations and equipment? What will response times be?
6. **Road Maintenance?** Will Browns Point and Dash Point roads continue to be well maintained, or will Tacoma convert maintenance to only patching and spot repairs as is common throughout the City?
7. **Representation?** What will be our neighborhood representation? Will we have our own neighborhood council or will we be forced into participating in the NE Tacoma neighborhood council, and if so, what would be our representation on that?
8. **Debt Obligations?** What is the portion of current Tacoma accumulated debt obligations which the Browns Point/Dash Point community will become obligated to?

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2018 AD VALOREM TAXES

