

City of Ketchikan Statement Regarding Recent National Events and Ketchikan Police Department Practices



On behalf of the City of Ketchikan, the City Council offers the statement below regarding recent national and local conversations concerning law enforcement and the associated community response.

“It is the mission of the Ketchikan Police Department, together with all the residents of the City, to make our community a safe place within which to live and work.” (Ketchikan Police Department mission statement.)

The Ketchikan Police Department strives to provide the best police service it can to our community. Many of the Department’s officers and dispatchers were born and raised in Ketchikan, and have now dedicated their lives both on and off the job to helping make Ketchikan a better place. The City of Ketchikan’s officers have sworn an oath to “perform the duties of police officer upon which I am about to enter faithfully and impartially and will do even and exact justice to all persons therein to the best of my ability.” The Ketchikan Police Department works diligently to adhere to these words and maintain the public’s trust. The City Council is committed to ensuring this level of service is delivered through the application of the department’s community policing philosophy as well as the continued review and training in best policing practices and the respectful treatment of all persons.

The Ketchikan City Council is saddened by recent national events involving law enforcement and will not tolerate racism or brutality in any form. We support the rights of all citizens to demonstrate lawfully and peacefully to have their voices heard and we are dedicated to ensuring the rights of all residents are protected and upheld. The City Council thanks the citizens of Ketchikan for being respectful to each other during recent community gatherings and demonstrations.

Ketchikan is made strong because of our diverse cultures and compassion for our neighbors and fellow residents. The City Council thanks the community for their efforts in partnership with the Ketchikan Police Department to make Ketchikan a safer, better place for all to live, work and enjoy.