



## Snohomish County Council

### **Media Advisory – March 30, 2016**

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### **Council Approves Increase of FTEs in Snohomish County Prosecuting Attorney's Office**

On Wednesday, March 30, 2016 the Snohomish County Council passed two motions and an emergency ordinance approving five new full time employees (FTE) for the prosecuting attorney's office as well as transferring funds to pay for these FTEs.

Prosecuting Attorney Mark Roe asked that these proposals be considered by the council due to an ever increasing workload, as well as a significant backlog of cases.

"The prosecutor lacked the manpower to keep up with criminal filings. The council is taking action to add prosecutors to clear the backlog and protect the public," said Council Chair Terry Ryan. "This is about sticking up for the victims and holding the guilty accountable."

"This is a temporary fix to a serious issue. This budget adjustment will help to address a serious criminal caseload backlog and I pledge to continue to work toward a more long term fix for our revenue deficit in Law and Justice," said Councilmember Sullivan.

The vote increases the total personnel in the PA's office and alters the 2016 approved budget. The result of this approval is an increase of \$275,000 to the PA's budget for 2016.

"It is important to address the backlog of cases and how it impacts our entire court system," said Councilmember Wright, Chair of the Law and Justice Committee. "This action will also strengthen the ability of law enforcement agencies to reduce the level of crimes impacting our neighborhoods and families."

Today's action approved salary and benefits to cover the hiring of four new deputy prosecuting attorneys and one legal assistant, as well as transferring funds to pay for these hires, including \$125,000 from the Council budget to help cover these costs in year 2016.

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