

#### **Chief's Message**



Today was the State of the City event for Shoreline, where our mayor's theme was "Healthy Community, Safe Community". I was given an opportunity to speak from our policing perspective doing my best to highlight the excellent dedicated service of each one of you brings to our community. I reiterated that police work is not easy work. Yet every single one of us takes on this profession with class and honor. While I sat in this event, my attention divided, many of you were on scene

of a tragic and horrible incident involving a child this morning. I appreciate each of you being willing to debrief with me individually after this incident. I want you all to remember that for us to have a **safe** community, **we** have to stay **healthy** as well.

At the end of the event, I was overwhelmed with words of encouragement for each of us and the support we have from our community. THIS IS NOT EASY WORK... but I am truly humbled to walk with each of your through our honorable efforts every single day. Thank you for your dedicated partnership.

- Chief Park

### Focus on Partnerships for a Healthy and Safe Community



Chief Kelly Park, Brook Buettner, Executive Director of Regional Crisis Response (RCR) Agency and Selam Habte, Business Specialist with the Shoreline Chamber of Commerce, were guest speakers at the State of the City event attended by community leaders and residents.



"Over the past several years, we have truly come to understand that when we think of public safety, we can't just think of police and the court system," stated Mayor Keith Scully. "To have a safe community, you must have a healthy community. A healthy community is one that takes care of its most vulnerable residents, where everyone can live affordably, that has a thriving business community, and where all people feel heard and respected."

City Manager Bristol Ellington stated "We are committed to creating that healthy community and working with our law enforcement partners to ensure that they aren't working alone when it comes to public safety. We can no longer place so many of society's burdens on them and expect good outcomes. We expect a lot from our Police and demand that they serve this diverse community with honor and respect for every individual. And I believe they do. I believe we should be proud of the officers that serve this community."

## **Commander's Awards to Sergeant Merclich and Deputy Dromgool**

The Commander's Award is the fifth highest KCSO award recognizing outstanding achievement or service by a department member who distinguishes himself or herself by heroism, meritorious achievement or meritorious service.

Sgt. Merclich, following Deputy Stultz's March 5th, 2023, officer involved shooting, commanded a complicated and uncertain scene with exceptional performance and leadership. His efforts, along with other exemplary first responders, contributed to the prompt apprehension of the felony suspect while sir



prompt apprehension of the felony suspect while simultaneously focusing on the immediate care of Deputy Stultz and preserving a large, several-block crime scene.

In the weeks and months that followed, Sgt. Merclich personally invested himself in restoring the wellbeing of Deputy Stultz and his esteemed partners. Thanks to his initiative, they shared moments, meals, and time on a path to restoring wellness.

Character and compassion are two qualities that define Sgt. Merclich and aid his ability to develop and maintain a highly effective squad. Under his leadership, they are a group that embodies the highest standards of the King County Sheriff's Office.



On the morning of March 5, 2023, Deputy Dromgool was working graveyard patrol in the city of Shoreline when he responded to Deputy Stultz's shots being fired call. As a trained EMT, Deputy Dromgool sprang into action and quickly assessed the situation. He provided first aid to Deputy Stultz, all while calling for backup and securing the scene. His knowledge and expertise in medical care allowed him to stabilize Deputy Stultz's condition and ensure that he received proper medical

attention as quickly as possible.

Deputy Dromgool's actions were critical in not only protecting his partner's life, but also in showing his dedication to his job and his ability to remain calm and composed under pressure. His training and professionalism allowed him to act quickly and effectively in a high-stress situation, demonstrating his commitment to serving and protecting the community, upholding the highest traditions of the King County Sheriff's Office.

Congratulations Sergeant Merclich and Deputy Dromgool!

### **Welcome Back Sergeant Brookens!**

Congratulations to Cedric Brookens on his promotion to Patrol Sergeant. Many of you may remember Sgt. Brookens as a new Shoreline recruit in 2017. After working in the city of Shoreline, he continued to gain experience and knowledge by working in Covington/Precinct 3 and then for KC Metro Transit Police. Sgt. Brookens is known for his ability to lead, connect and build strong relationships with the community.



We are excited to have Sgt. Brookens back on board and look forward to all the positive impacts he will have on the city of Shoreline!

# Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics



Last Friday, Chief Moen, Deputy Hunt and Captain Meyer laced up their running shoes and ran in the annual Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) for Special Olympics. Special Olympics raises funds and awareness for athletes with intellectual disabilities. Our runners picked up the torch from Edmonds PD at N 205th ST and handed it off to SPD at N 145th ST. Overall, team KCSO was the top fundraiser, raising over \$3000.

A special thank you to Deputy Hunt for his initiative organizing Team Precinct 5.