City of Seattle

Seattle Police Department

March 14, 2014

Councilmember Bruce Harrell
Seattle City Council
600 4th Avenue, PO Box 34025
Seattle, WA 98124-4025

Re: 2014 May Day Preparation

Dear Councilmember Harrell:

Thank you for your letter referencing our preparations in anticipation of possible public demonstrations and/or marches that may occur again this May 1, 2014. As previously discussed, I have ordered my staff to initiate planning and outreach actions regarding this event.

We utilized the documents referenced in your letter to guide our planning efforts in 2013 in addition to other Seattle Police Department (SPD) planning processes, and will again in 2014. The department has initiated a number of actions and will continue to follow our planning and outreach processes during the planning cycle for May Day. Highlighted actions are listed below:

- Captain Fowler, West Precinct, has been assigned as the Incident Commander (IC) for May Day 2014 and will report to Assistant Chief McDonagh.
- He has identified his planning cycle, including initial planning discussions for police preparedness efforts.
- The overarching Incident Objectives for this event are in the process of being finalized, which will likely closely model those presented last year.
- Conversations have been initiated with the businesses in the downtown area.
- Outreach with the event organizers has been initiated to support the lawful gathering of people wishing to express their constitutional rights.
- SPD units necessary to perform details on May Day and conduct relevant training prior to the event have been identified.
- We are working with the Compliance and Professional Standards Bureau to ensure the appropriate level of Force Investigation Team (FIT) members are readily available during the May Day event to address use of force issues that might arise.
- A/C McDonagh and Captain Fowler are coordinating with our Public Affairs Unit to disseminate information prior to the event in support of a peaceful demonstration and we are developing a communication plan.
- SPD staff have and will continue to support and assist the City Attorney's Office on recommendations for additional or modifications to our city ordinances, as recommended in the Hillman report.

This does not encompass all of our efforts to date, nor what we anticipate completing as we approach May Day. My staff will continue to work with parties involved and impacted by May Day demonstrations to facilitate a safe march allowing for the expression of opinions while not endangering the health or property of others.

I am happy to come to a Public Safety Committee meeting to answer questions. I appreciate your ongoing support and if you have additional questions please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Harry Bailey
Interim Chief of Police

cc: Mayor Edward B. Murray
Council President Tim Burgess
Councilmember Nick Licata
Councilmember Sally Bagshaw
Deputy Mayor Hyeok Kim
Tina Podlodowski