



Office of the Mayor
City of Seattle
Bruce Harrell, Mayor

Executive Order 2025-07: City of Seattle Response to Potential National Guard Deployment

This Executive Order directs City Departments to prepare the City and protect our local communities and resources if the National Guard is unilaterally deployed to Seattle.

WHEREAS, President Trump has engaged in unprecedented and unwarranted actions deploying the National Guard and federal military troops to American cities; and

WHEREAS, the President's actions are not based on specific facts and circumstances warranting the deployment of military troops, but on fearmongering that creates discord and division in our society; and

WHEREAS, such deployments are contrary to the U.S. Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the use of federal military forces in local communities without consent of local authorities is inconsistent with American principles of democracy and the right of states and cities to self-govern, risks escalation of conflict, and undermines public trust; and

WHEREAS, the City of Seattle is a municipal corporation organized under the Constitution and laws of the State of Washington, and is vested with the authority and responsibility to govern local affairs, maintain public safety, and safeguard the civil rights of the people of Seattle; and

WHEREAS, the doctrine of separation of powers requires respect for state and local authority, and federal encroachment into local policing or governance undermines constitutional balance and threatens civil liberties; and

WHEREAS, the City of Seattle wishes to protect its residents, workers, visitors, and institutions if President Trump orders deployment of federal military forces in the City; and

WHEREAS, the City of Seattle wishes to establish clear policies, operational safeguards, and legal defense measures; and

WHEREAS, the City of Seattle will work closely with the Governor of Washington State, the Washington State Attorney General, as well as other relevant state agencies and local governments, to coordinate response to the unauthorized deployment of federal military troops;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bruce Harrell, Mayor of Seattle, order that the City of Seattle shall take the following actions to prepare for any unilateral deployment of the National Guard or other federal military troops in the City of Seattle:

Section 1: Creation of Seattle Resilience Task Force

- A. The Seattle Resilience Task Force is created to coordinate Citywide interdepartmental planning and response. The Seattle Resilience Task Force will be led by the Mayor's Office. Participating departments are the Seattle Police Department, Seattle Fire Department, Office of Emergency Management, Community Assisted Response and Engagement Department, Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs, Office of Intergovernmental Relations, Department of Neighborhoods, and the Human Services Department. The Seattle City Attorney's Office is invited and encouraged to participate.
- B. The Seattle Resilience Task Force shall:
 - a) Implement City operational plans necessary to respond to unilateral deployment of the National Guard or other federal military troops in the City.
 - b) Educate communities about their rights and preparedness for National Guard or other federal military deployment in the City.
 - c) Communicate with the public, including outreach and regular public updates if federal military troops are deployed in the City.
 - d) Meet with stakeholders and community advocacy groups to discuss the impacts of the National Guard or other federal military troop deployment in Seattle to inform the Task Force's work.
 - e) Create a mechanism for the public to report alleged improper acts by the National Guard or other federal military troops in the City.
 - f) Conduct after-action reviews to evaluate outcomes and strengthen future responses.
 - g) Undertake other actions as directed by the Mayor's Office.

Section 2: Coordination of Legal Actions and Intergovernmental Operational Responses

- A. The Mayor's Office shall work with the City Attorney's Office to proactively evaluate and pursue all available legal actions in the event of unilateral deployment of the National Guard or other federal military troops in the City.
- B. The Mayor's Office shall coordinate and communicate with the City Attorney's Office, the Washington State Governor, and the Washington State Attorney General on any such legal actions.
- C. The Mayor's Office shall coordinate and communicate with the State and local government partners on operations and on-the-ground responses during any unilateral deployment of the National Guard.
- D. The Mayor's Office and Office of Intergovernmental Relations shall provide timely updates to the City's congressional delegation, and representatives of relevant Tribal, local, and state governments.

Section 3: Maintaining Local Control and Accountability of the Seattle Police Department

- A. The Seattle Police Department is entrusted with protecting and enhancing the health, safety, environment, and general welfare of the City of Seattle and is the primary law enforcement agency with jurisdiction in the City. The Seattle Police Department strives to foster trust and cooperation with all people it serves, including immigrant and refugee communities.
- B. Under the federal Posse Comitatus Act, 18 U.S.C. § 1385, federal military forces are prohibited from enforcing local laws or otherwise engaging in civilian law enforcement unless expressly authorized by the Constitution or an act of Congress.
- C. In the event of a decision by the federal government to unilaterally deploy the National Guard or other federal military troops into the City of Seattle, the Seattle Police Department will not abdicate its responsibilities and will continue to serve and protect Seattle's communities under the command of the Chief of Police and, ultimately, the Mayor of Seattle.
- D. The Seattle Police Department will maintain its functional independence and will not act at the direction of the National Guard or federal authorities so that it is able to continue to fulfill its primary mission of local law enforcement.
- E. To ensure alignment with other City departments and the Executive, the Seattle Police Department will report daily to the Executive on known actions of the deployed federal troops, any responsive actions of the Seattle Police Department, and any other relevant information.
- F. To maintain accountability and transparency, the Seattle Police Department will issue a directive to officers providing guidance consistent with this Executive Order.

Section 4: First Amendment Activities

- A. The First Amendment is a bedrock principle of our constitutional democracy. The City supports the right of the people to make their voices heard through lawful First Amendment activities.
- B. The City recognizes that local law enforcement helps facilitate numerous free speech activities each year without incident and, in the case of unlawful activity, is well-prepared to address any such incidents constitutionally and without the need for federal intervention.
- C. In the event of organized First Amendment activities during a unilateral deployment of the National Guard or other federal military troops, the City supports the right of people to make their voices heard and shall offer to work with organizers to help keep protests peaceful and to minimize the potential for conflict.

Inquiries regarding this Executive Order should be directed to Chief of Staff Andrew Myerberg and Deputy Mayor & General Counsel Greg Wong.

Dated this 8th day of October, 2025.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Bruce A. Harrell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Bruce" and last name "Harrell" clearly legible.

Bruce A. Harrell
Mayor of Seattle