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Subject: Thank you

Date: February 4, 2021 at 5:35:25 PM PST

To: "G.PD (Police)" <g.pd@cob.org>

Employees of the Bellingham Police Department -

I had the chance to watch an early draft video compilation of the body-worn camera footage from the January 28 encampment clearing and protest at City Hall. This is just a quick note to express my deepest heartfelt thanks and admiration for the work of the Bellingham Police Department. Special thanks for those women and men who, faced with a hostile, volatile crowd intent on provoking confrontation, used their extensive training and experience to maintain the highest professional standards. You remained steadfast and calm under daunting circumstances and in doing so prevented injury and further violence.

Watching the short video excerpts of your work, and knowing that you faced hours of those conditions that day, was an emotional experience for me and others who viewed the early draft video. Please know you all have our utmost respect and admiration. I extend my thanks to the entire Bellingham Police Department, as I am keenly aware that it takes every one of you, serving in your many roles, to form the effective team you are known to be.

The video will be released to the public in the next day or so. We have received many public records requests for the complete body-worn camera footage and, in releasing these excerpts, we wanted to provide the community a chance to see some of what happened that day from your perspective. We anticipate it will be widely viewed and shared and, I hope, result in widespread public praise for the exemplary work you do each day.

Thank you, as always, for your service.

Seth Fleetwood

Mayor

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