

Dear Seattle City Council,

In three weeks, I am excited to officially break one of the last major glass ceilings in Seattle politics and the legal profession when I am sworn in as Seattle's first female City Attorney. While women have thrived for decades now in many other elected positions in Seattle, this will be the first time a woman holds the highest legal position in the city. In fact, while the majority of students entering law school and associates at law firms are women, fewer than [one-in-five](#) equity partners at major law firms are female.

When I am sworn in, it is my intent to lead the City Attorney's Office with a collaborative approach – listening to the needs of our community and partnering with the Mayor and Council to address our most persistent public policy challenges. To that end, last night I visited Seven Stars restaurant in Little Saigon which was featured this past week in the *Seattle Times* in the editorial entitled: [“Seattle and King County have deserted Little Saigon.”](#)

The owner of Seven Stars told me how she had put all of her savings into owning her own restaurant but now no customers can come because it is so unsafe. Simply to access her second-floor restaurant I had to walk a shocking pathway through dozens of people using drugs, selling stolen goods, and engaged in other illicit activities. She now works alone because her wait-staff feel too afraid to come to work. She fears for her life every day. There have been multiple shootings in front of her restaurant just in the past 3 months. Her words “no one will protect us” ring in my ears. Most of the neighboring businesses are already boarded up.

Rather than addressing the real public safety crises in Little Saigon, Aurora Avenue N., Ballard, the Downtown commercial core, South Seattle, or dozens of other neighborhoods across our city, today's hearing seeks to rush through Council bill 120247, introduced on Monday, that relates to the operation and reporting of the City Attorney's Office. I have not been consulted on this bill.

In the over 100-year history of the City Attorney's Office, none of my male predecessors faced a single preemptive move by Council to establish additional reporting requirements and restrictions on operations in the two months before they took office. Nor did Council show any interest in scrutinizing the limited data provided by my predecessor. I encourage my esteemed colleagues on City Council to question whether they are enforcing a double standard and what message that sends our daughters who one day may seek elected office.

I am absolutely committed to greater transparency from the City Attorney's Office and working to bolster the city's diversion programs. Once I take office, I look forward to working together to make sure my office shares the data and metrics necessary to properly assess the performance of our municipal criminal justice system. And I commit to working together with you to come to terms on the best way to formalize that.

In that spirit of transparency, I must report to Council that, in the course of my official transition work, I have learned that the City Attorney's Office has a backlog of 3,885 un-filed criminal cases going back over two years. The backlog of un-filed criminal cases includes, among others:

<u>Count</u>	<u>Offense Type</u>
355	Assault
167	Unlawful Use of a Weapon
50	Vehicle Prowling
657	Domestic Violence
24	Domestic Violence – Child Abuse
7	Domestic Violence – Elder Abuse
90	Domestic Violence – Non-Int. Partner
38	Stalking with Sexual Motivation
8	Cruelty to Animals
59	Malicious Harassment or Menacing
252	Property Destruction
21	Reckless Burning
639	Theft

Each one of these un-filed cases involves a real victim waiting for justice. For my part, I plan to re-center the victims in our city's public safety conversation. I look forward to City Council's partnership and attention to this dire backlog of cases. I hope we can work together to give the City Attorney's Office the resources to stand up for the victims of domestic violence and assault once again.

Sincerely,

Ann Davison

Seattle City Attorney-elect

See attached pictures of the owner of Seven Stars restaurant at 12<sup>th</sup> and Jackson Ave. S watching over an open-air drug market preventing customers from entering her restaurant.

