

August 13, 2019

Andrew E. Neiditz
Executive Director
South Sound 911
955 Tacoma Ave South, Ste 202
Tacoma, WA 98402

Re: Local Employment on Construction of New South Sound 911 Facility

Dear Director Neiditz,

We write to express our profound disappointment that planning for construction of the new South Sound 911 building did not include any consideration of local employment and apprenticeship.

At our most recent South Sound 911 Board meeting, Council Members Hunter and Thoms were disturbed to learn that no plan had been developed, nor even thought given, to creating construction employment opportunities for Pierce County residents. The proposed new sixty million dollar building is wholly funded by taxes authorized by vote of, and paid by, Pierce County residents.

As you may be aware, Tacoma has a long-standing local employee and apprenticeship program for our own public works projects. Other regional public agencies, institutions, and even private developers including Sound Transit, Tacoma Housing Authority, Bates College, University of Washington Tacoma, Point Ruston and many others include and prioritize local construction employment programs in their significant capital projects to support the community that supports them.

We strongly urge you to reconsider your omission of a local construction employment program and work with your selected contractor and local labor organizations to develop a project labor agreement that ensures employment and apprenticeship programs for Pierce County residents. To assist in your efforts we attach a list of local resources who can be of service. We look forward to receiving your commitment to local construction employment on the South Sound 911 building project.

Sincerely,