May 30, 2020

Major General Bret Daugherty  
The Adjutant General  
Washington Military Department  
Building 1, MS: TA-20  
Camp Murray, WA 98430-5000

RE: Activating the Washington National Guard to Assist the City of Seattle in Maintaining Public Health, Safety & Welfare in Response to Mass Protests

Dear General Daugherty:

As you know, last night the City of Seattle experienced crowds of people (including what were reported to be masked anarchists) gathered in downtown Seattle to protest the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis, Minnesota on May 25, 2020. This protest included acts of violence and damage, resulting in arrests on charges ranging from property damage, assault of a Seattle police officer, failure to disburse, and obstructing arrest. Additionally, thousands of people have gathered in Seattle today for continuing protests, which have led to tense confrontations between protestors and police. The protests are expected to continue into the night and perhaps into the following days.

Seattle Mayor Jenny Durkan and Police Chief Carmen Best, through Seattle’s Office of Emergency Management, today submitted a request to the State Emergency Operations Center for 200 unnamed National Guard personnel for seven days to primarily assist with infrastructure protection related to these ongoing protests, traffic management and to assist Seattle Police Department with crowd management, if needed, in relation to the protests.

Under RCW 38.08.040, I am authorized to order the Washington National Guard, or any part thereof, into active service of the State to perform such duty as I deem proper when required for the public health, safety, or welfare. I find that the ongoing protests and potential for related acts of violence and property damage require activation of up to 200 unarmed members of the Washington National Guard in response to Seattle’s request, and that this activation of the National Guard is required for the protection of the public health, safety, or welfare of the City of Seattle, its populous, and all public and private property therein.
Therefore, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the State of Washington, pursuant to RCW 38.08.040 and 38.10, order into active state service up to 200 unarmed members of the Washington National Guard, including personnel and equipment, as may be necessary in the opinion of The Adjutant General of the Washington State Military Department, to perform such duties as The Adjutant General deems appropriate for the circumstances described above.

Sincerely,

Jay Inslee
Governor