May 31, 2020

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

RE: Supplemental Request for 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, yesterday I activated the Washington National Guard to assist the City of Seattle in responding to the May 30, 2020, mass protests in downtown Seattle initially organized to protest the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis, Minnesota on May 25, 2020. The protest was organized as a peaceful gathering and while many attempted to keep it that way, others engaged in acts of violence and damage, resulting in arrests on charges ranging from property damage, assault of a Seattle police officer, failure to disperse, and obstructing arrest. The protests yesterday followed similar activities of the night before and city officials remain concerned about the coming days.

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

In response, I activated 200 unarmed members of the Washington Army National Guard to assist the City of Seattle. In the following hours on the evening of May 30, 2020, a second request for an additional 200 unarmed National Guard personnel was submitted by Mayor Durkan’s office. By email to you on the evening of May 30, 2020, I granted that second request.

I hereby memorialize the authorization for state activation of 200 or more additional unarmed members of the Washington National Guard, and now authorize activation of a
total of up to 400 or more unarmed members of the National Guard to assist the City of Seattle with cleanup, infrastructure protection, traffic control, crowd management, and other similar activities.

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 additional unarmed members of the Washington National Guard in response to the City of 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 200 or more additional 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. This amended order is retroactive to May 30, 2020.

Sincerely,

Jay Inslee
Governor