

April 16, 2024

To: Bellevue City Council

Re: Oral Comments to Council

Fr: Craig Spiezle

---

Good evening. My name is Craig Spiezle and I am a resident of Bellevue. I am speaking tonight to thank Acting City Manager Carlson and city staff for extending family COBRA payments for Officer Kevin Bereta and all city employees who become seriously injured on the job and unable to return to work within 6-months. As announced by the City on March 25<sup>th</sup>, Kevin Bereta's existing family medical coverage will continue for a minimum of an additional six months, allowing to him to focus on recuperating with the goal to return to the Police Department to serve our community.

It is important to recognize many throughout the city including myself were caught flat-footed. Up to now this type of situation had never previously been encountered in the city's 70-year history. It was a pivotal point for the city coming together. These issues are never as simple as they appear and take time to bring everyone together. Unfortunately the press and media failed to recognize this.

The City Manager's ability to listen to the community, unions and other stakeholders is to be commended. I want to specifically share my appreciation for Acting City Manager Carlson, Council Member Nieuwenhuis and Council Manager Hamilton as well as representatives of the Police Guild, Chief Shirley for engaging directly with me throughout the process.

While this is an interim solution, I look forward to working with the city and Guild to find a permanent solution which meets employees' needs in a fiscally sustainable manner that is equitable for all City employees who serve the community and represents the core values of our city.

Thank you

Craig Spiezle

[Craigsp@agelight.com](mailto:Craigsp@agelight.com)

425-985-1421