

# Resolution No. 1997-35

[\(Council Minutes 97/11/17\)](#)

## RESOLUTION NO. 1997-35

A RESOLUTION of the City Council of the City of Lakewood, Washington, expressing support for and appreciation of the law enforcement officers of the City

WHEREAS, in order to provide for the City's police department needs, the City of Lakewood has contracted with Pierce County, under which contract Pierce County Deputy Sheriffs act as the police officers for the City, and constitute the Police Department for the City, including providing for such things as traffic enforcement, patrol duties, detective services, neighborhood programs and special operations; and,

WHEREAS, under the City's law enforcement contract, officers from the Pierce County Sheriff's Department are assigned to the City of Lakewood, including one such officer who is designated by the City to be the Police Chief for the City of Lakewood, and which officers operate out of the Lakewood Police Station, working in concert with other City staff and City departments, including filing their traffic and non-felony violations with the Lakewood Municipal Court and working with the City's legal department in prosecuting such violations; and,

WHEREAS, the City's Police Chief and the officers assigned to the City of Lakewood have worked hard to address the law enforcement needs of the City, and have specifically sought direction from the City in identifying the law enforcement needs of the City, in prioritizing the areas of such needs in the City, and in devising approaches to handling the tasks involved; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to such efforts, the City's law enforcement officers have focused on the crime problems in certain neighborhoods of the City, including things such as gangs, drug traffic and prostitution; and,

WHEREAS, in connection with a recent case involving a law enforcement operation to address prostitution, the City's law enforcement team came under criticism by a high ranking public official from Pierce County who had been charged with a violation of the law, where that public official expressed his belief that the law enforcement operation to tackle prostitution was the result of improper training and an ill prepared operation; and,

WHEREAS, the members of the Lakewood City Council and City Staff, who have had the opportunity to acquaint themselves with the officers serving the City and with the ways law enforcement activities are handled within the City, and to interact with the City's law enforcement team, not just in reviewing crime statistics, but also in prioritizing police service needs and addressing the ways that the City's law enforcement needs can best be met, strongly disagree with the criticism directed at our officers who provide the law enforcement services for the City; and,

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that our officers and the residents of this community know how much the City Council appreciates the officers of its police department, and that City Council stands behind the department, and that the members of the City Council feels that the criticism by the Pierce County public official was unwarranted, incorrect and improper.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAKEWOOD, WASHINGTON, HEREBY RESOLVES as follows:

Section 1. The City Council publicly states its strong support for the Police Chief and police officers of the City, who provide law enforcement services in the City of Lakewood. The City Council further publicly states its position that the criticism by a certain high ranking public official from Pierce County, attacking the caliber of law enforcement efforts and training of the law

enforcement officers of the City was incorrect, improper, inappropriate and unwarranted. Instead, the City Council has noticed the high level of dedication to duty, integrity, knowledge, proficiency and professionalism of the officers assigned to Lakewood. The Lakewood City Council and City Staff appreciate our officers of the Lakewood law enforcement team and appreciate their efforts to make Lakewood a safer place.

Section 2. That this Resolution shall be in full force and effect upon passage and signatures hereon.

PASSED by the City Council this 17th day of November, 1997.

CITY OF LAKEWOOD

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Bill Harrison, Mayor Claudia Thomas, Deputy Mayor

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Ann Kirk Davis, Councilmember Sherry Thomas, Councilmember

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Jose= Palmas, Councilmember Doug Richardson, Councilmember

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Colleen Henry, Councilmember D. Scott Rohlfs, City Manager

ATTEST:

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Alice M. Bush, CMC, City Clerk

Approved as to Form:

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Daniel B. Heid, City Attorney

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