

Mayor Wilson's Statement on Seattle Center Shootings

What happened today at the Seattle Center was an act of horrific violence.

Impacted families are living through the worst moment of their lives, and an entire community is trying to understand how a gathering built around culture, connection, and joy ended in gunfire.

No one should have to weigh the risk of being shot before attending an event, gathering with friends, or experiencing their city.

Our first responsibilities are supporting grieving families, caring for the injured, and providing clear and accurate information for the public.

I want to thank the Seattle police officers who responded to the scene and took one suspect into custody. I also want to recognize Seattle firefighters and medical personnel at Harborview who are treating the injured, as well as Seattle Center and event staff and bystanders who helped people reach safety and provided aid in terrifying circumstances.

We know that many people who were not physically injured will carry what they experienced today for a long time. That includes witnesses, workers, first responders, and everyone waiting to learn whether someone they love is safe. Call or text 988 if you or someone you want to help is experiencing a mental health crisis.

Gun violence changes families forever. Its trauma reaches far beyond the people struck by bullets. In the days ahead, we will establish what happened and be transparent with the public about what we have learned.

Tonight, our attention belongs to the people whose lives were taken, those fighting to recover, and the families beside them.

Seattle grieves with you, and we will stand with you in the difficult days ahead.

Social Media Statement

What happened here today was an act of horrific violence. Impacted families are living through the worst moment of their lives, and an entire community is trying to understand how a gathering built around culture, connection, and joy ended in gunfire. No one should have to weigh the risk of being shot before attending an event, gathering with friends, or experiencing their city. In the days ahead, we will establish what happened and be transparent with the public about what we have learned. Seattle grieves with you, and we will stand with you in the difficult days ahead.

Commented [DS1]: @Wilson, Sage @Fincher-C, Crystal @Handy, Esther @Holland, Danielle @Spangenthal-Lee, Jonah (MOS) were going to lock this up at 8:30PM and post on blog.

Commented [DS2R1]: POSTED

Talking Points

Seattle Center Shooting — Mayor's Talking Points

Opening

- What happened today at Seattle Center was an act of horrific violence.
- Families are living through the worst moment of their lives.
- An entire community is trying to understand how a gathering built around culture, connection, and joy ended in gunfire.
- No one should have to weigh the risk of being shot before attending an event, gathering with friends, or taking part in the life of their city.

Immediate priorities

- Our responsibilities right now are:
 - Supporting grieving families.
 - Caring for the injured.
 - Providing the public with clear and accurate information as more becomes known.

Response

- Thank the Seattle police officers who responded to the scene and took one suspect into custody.
- I also want to recognize:
 - The Seattle firefighters who treated the injured.
 - Medical personnel at Harborview who are caring for patients.
 - And Seattle Center event staff who helped people reach safety and provided aid in terrifying circumstances.

What comes next

- This has been an especially tough week for Seattle. Thursday night there was a shooting near Aurora in North Seattle, again in Capitol Hill Friday night, and now here at the Seattle Center today.
- While the police department continues their investigations, we cannot let up on implementing a multi-pronged gun violence strategy.
 - We are **partnering** across City departments, County partners, and community experts, including those who have lost loved ones to gun violence, and neighborhood residents and businesses.

- We are using **intervention and care** by integrating the Community Assisted Response and Engagement (CARE) team and evidence-based frameworks like LEAD to connect individuals dealing with behavioral crises or drug-driven offenses to stable housing and treatment.
- For too long, Seattle has relied on short-term efforts. Our approach is immediate neighborhood stabilization with long-term systemic investments toward youth, mental health, and economic opportunity—getting to **the root causes**.
- In the days ahead, we will:
 - Establish what happened here at the Seattle Center.
 - Keep the public informed as facts are confirmed in all three cases.
 - Act on what we learn.

Closing

- Tonight, our attention belongs to:
 - The people whose lives were taken.
 - Those fighting to recover.
 - The families beside them.
- Seattle grieves with you, and we will stand with you in the difficult days ahead.

Possible Questions

1. Can you confirm the number of people injured and killed? (or any facts about the case)?

The latest information I have is that one suspect has been apprehended, three people have passed, and four were injured. There may be a second possible suspect at large.

2. Isn't Seattle Center a gun-free zone? What does that mean if there is a mass shooting on site?

SPD is involved in supporting large special events like the Bite of Seattle. In this case, they were already on campus and able to apprehend the suspect without discharging any of their weapons.

3. What are you doing to prevent gun violence?

- This has been an especially tough week for Seattle. Thursday night there was a shooting near Aurora in North Seattle, again in Capitol Hill Friday night, and now here at the Seattle Center today.

Commented [HE3]: @Spangenthal-Lee, Jonah (MOS) and @Schellenberg, Dawn - can you drop in a couple short responses to respond to and pivot from Qs including these.

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4. Why don't you turn on cameras here?

My understanding is the Seattle Center has limited cameras and are working with SPD.
[turn over to SPD for any additional information they have]