

All-department memorandum sent by SPD Chief H.A. VandenWyer on the occasion of the Initiative 13 vote, July 31, 1978. Folder 4, Box 6, Charles T. Royer Legal Subject Files, 5274-03. Seattle Municipal Archives.

FORM 1.11

*Serial 3*

**INTRA-DEPARTMENT COMMUNICATION  
SEATTLE POLICE DEPARTMENT**

FROM: H. A. VandenWyer, Chief of Police *405*

DATE: July 31, 1978

TO: Bulletin Clerk

SUBJECT: BULLETIN NOTICE

Rec'd: Mayor's Office
Sent To:
Action: AUG 2 1978

\*\*\*\*\*

Elections will be held soon, and I feel this is an appropriate time to mention that as police officers, we must maintain strictly neutral positions. We cannot openly support any candidate, issue, or petition, while on duty, on city property (not public,) or as representatives of our department or city government. In order that we be accepted by the total citizenry for what we are, professional police officers, we must not give the slightest impression, either by word or action, that we support anything but the law we are sworn to uphold. Again, this applies when on-duty or acting in a ~~unprofessional~~ *official* capacity.

Of particular importance are our vocal comments within the hearing of concerned citizens. Frankly, as police officers, when we indulge in this type of reaction, we always lose. Not only do we appear unprofessional, we also lose respect.

One concern is Initiative 13 -- we must maintain an impartial position. When citations and/or arrests are anticipated, a supervisor should be consulted except under circumstances amounting to emergency situations. Derogatory remarks will not be condoned.

H. A. VANDEN WYER  
Chief of Police

\*\*\*\*\*

HAV/sf

*To: Hugh Spitzer For your info.*