

Statement from Mayor Douglas Richardson and City Manager Andrew Neiditz

On the murder of four Lakewood police officers on Sunday, November 29, 2009

“Today we experienced our most tragic event in Lakewood’s fourteen years as a city. We lost four of our finest in a shocking, heartbreaking, and senseless murder. Our hearts, thoughts, and prayers are with the families and colleagues of these innocent victims during this extraordinarily difficult time.”

“The slain officers were all part of Lakewood’s initial police department start-up five years ago. All transferred to Lakewood as commissioned law enforcement officers from other jurisdictions. Their dedication and selfless service contributed immensely toward the successful creation of the Lakewood Police Department. Today we have four fewer officers from our force of one hundred commissioned officers. They will be sorely missed. Support from other law enforcement agencies has been very responsive and deeply appreciated.”

“Once we have fully notified extended family members, we will release the identities of the slain officers. We are nearly done with that critical process.”

Since the crime occurred just outside of Lakewood city limits, the Pierce County Sheriff’s Department has jurisdiction. Those with information on the crime should call (253) 798-7470.