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Police Department

Steven D. Strachan
Executive Director

WASPC GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

8:00 – 9:30 AM | WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2021

President-Elect Rick Scott opened the meeting at 8:00 AM. He welcomed everyone to the meeting. He recognized Seattle’s Finest Security & Traffic Control as the Platinum WASPC Conference sponsor as well as the other conference sponsors. He then introduced representatives from FirstNet Built with AT&T and OCV, LLC as this year’s fall GBM sponsor. Brief comments made by the sponsors.

MINUTES

Approval of Minutes from May 26, 2021 Meeting.

Motion made, Second, and Vote to approve by attendees

RESOLUTIONS

Proposed Law Enforcement Torch Run: 40th Anniversary Resolution - #2021-02

Motion made, Second, and Vote by attendees to adopt

Proposed Support of the Teens in the Driver Seat Program Resolution - #2021-03

Motion made, Second, and Vote by attendees to adopt

COMMITTEE REPORTS

During the meeting, committee chairs gave brief updates regarding recent activities. Written committee reports are posted on the WASPC website committee pages (www.waspc.org/committees).

Motion, Second, and Vote by attendees to approve reports as provided

Current list of WASPC Committees and chairs

- Boating Safety (C. Myers)
- Corrections (Scott, Harris, Jackson)
- Finance & Personnel (Vance)
- Grants (Howie, Raymond)
- Homeland Security/Intelligence (Knezovich, Thomas)
- Indian Country Law Enforcement (Lasnier, Salisbury)
- Law Enforcement Education & Training (Hyer, Fisher)
- Legislative (Nole, J. Snaza, Meidl, Scairpon)
- Membership (Spoor, Alexander)
- Professional Services (Jones, Myers)
- Public Trust (Murray, Elfo)
- Small Agency (Helm, Berthon-Koch)
- Traffic Safety (Cobb, Hyer)
- University Policing (Berthon-Koch)
- Wellness & Resilience (Behrbaum, Burnett)

OTHER BUSINESS

Wellness Grants—Chief Scott Behrbaum, Steve Strachan, Jamie Weimer

An update on the Department of Health Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Task Force was provided. Director Strachan and Chiefs Lasnier, Behrbaum and Jenkins participate/d in the Task Force.

The WA Legislature allocated funding to WASPC to establish a behavioral health support and suicide prevention grant program for law enforcement officers. The program will award grants to leverage access to mental health professionals, overall physical and mental wellness, critical stress management and resiliency training. WASPC will award funding up to \$300,000 for the period of February 15, 2022 to June 30, 2022 and up to \$300,000 for the period of July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023. The application will be available in the coming weeks.

Single Point Firearm Update—Kateri Candee | WSP

Kateri Candee, Firearms Background Division Commander at the Washington State Patrol provided a high level overview of implementation efforts for the single point firearms background check program. The implementation plan was completed in December 2020. The vendor for the Secure Automated Firearms E-Check (SAFE) System has been identified and is developing the system. A soft launch of the SAFE System will occur in July 2023 with full implementation scheduled for January 2024. Kateri discussed the possible inclusion of background checks for concealed pistol licenses and disposition of firearms. This is an ongoing discussion. An update will be provided at the Spring WASPC Conference.

Strategic Intentions 2021-22

Steve Strachan noted for the membership that this is a document we generally review and highlight the changes we make each year to keep the document fresh. This year, there are minor or grammatical and housekeeping changes. Additionally, updates were made to the Executive Training section to capture the new executive training platform implementation.

President Scott encouraged everyone to read the document. The Executive Board spent time reviewing it in its entirety during the recent retreat. He expressed his appreciation for the time and effort that goes into this document.

Motion, Second, and Vote by attendees to adopt

WASPC 2022 Legislative Reform Agenda

Executive Director Strachan and James McMahan presented the proposed 2022 legislative agenda. Our efforts in the upcoming session will be focused on communicating the need for changes to the recently enacted laws (and the effects of these laws on our communities). We will continue to work in good faith and with flexibility to maintain public safety.

Motion, Second, and Vote by attendees to adopt

Executive Director Updates – Steve Strachan

2021 has been a year of unique pressures and significant changes. Still, WASPC's June 2021 statement on reform continues to resonate: "We anticipate that the policing reforms may have the positive impact of reducing the number of violent interactions between law enforcement

and the public. However, we owe it to the public we serve to be candid and share that we are deeply concerned that some policing reforms may have unintended outcomes that result in increased levels of confusion, frustration, victimization, and increased crime within our communities.” Our main message is and should continue to be:

- Good policing and reform are not mutually exclusive.
- We need both, but we also need clarity so we can do the job, and we need to reduce some restrictions to allow proactive policing.
- Our law enforcement officers are trained to serve and protect our communities. We understand the importance of being a part of the greater solution for issues plaguing our communities: homelessness, addiction, emboldened criminals and increased contempt for the laws we are sworn to uphold.
- We need the tools and the staffing to:
 - get people the help they need,
 - to arrest, jail and prosecute people who victimize others, and
 - the staffing to facilitate de-escalation when possible and provide increased safety in our communities.

Now is the time for us to be a part of balanced reform that works in each of our local communities. Our elected representatives need to hear our message; our communities expect us to come together and collaborate for balanced solutions that enhance trust and maintain safety for our communities.

President Scott adjourned the meeting.