

WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF SHERIFFS & POLICE CHIEFS

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Serving the Law Enforcement Community and the Citizens of Washington



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Greetings from Your Executive Director:

Happy New Year and I hope this report finds you well- here are a few updates as we head toward a new legislative session—

With changes in the legislature, we expect that some new bills will be coming forward this year with a good chance of passage- one of which will be **further restrictions** on cooperation with, or communicating with, ICE and the Border Patrol. Many departments already have these kind of policy restrictions but there may be **a bill to mandate it** for all state and local agencies. We will keep you in the loop as these progress but just giving you a heads-up that this kind of restrictive bill may be coming.

Many of you know that each year there are bills that use titles like “Criminal Justice Reform” but they are too often just ways to release more property offenders or avoid building another prison as our state population grows. Our position is that reform is fine to discuss, but it should be thoughtful and **aimed at public safety, not just saving some dollars**. In addition, we need to keep victims of crime at the forefront, and highlight the effect of crime on those who are victimized.

As we have been discussing in this report the last several weeks, we are encouraged that the Governor is looking to support **substantial improvements to the mental health system**, and we will continue to emphasize attention to the most seriously and chronically mentally ill who have frequent contacts with the criminal justice system. We also need to look at California, as they have made a large number of changes to their criminal justice system over the last several years. These changes were driven by politics, budget problems and sometimes through public initiatives. In other words, many of the same dynamics we see here in Washington. We need to learn from their experiences and not make some of the same mistakes, while learning from the changes that have sometimes shown good results. Here is an article from San Joaquin County that is interesting in terms of some of their “real world” results:

[Crime once plagued San Joaquin County, but now its jail has empty beds. Here's what it did right](#)

Also, with the upcoming changes for firearms laws due to I-1639 and the NICS change, here is a very comprehensive article on how these will change a lot of the landscape on firearms checks:

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http://www.chronline.com/northwest_regional_news/i--federal-changes-reshape-washington-s-gun-purchase-background/article_c3fd6556-0eb6-11e9-8b8d-93d373034041.html

This past week, the National Law Enforcement Officer Memorial Fund released their 2018 Report. Unfortunately, officer on-duty deaths were up 12% from last year, and alarmingly, firearms deaths were up 13%. Here is a link to the 2018 Law Enforcement Officers Fatality report:

www.LawMemorial.org/FatalitiesReport

Here's a link to the Press Release:

<http://www.nleomf.org/newsroom/news-releases/eoy-fatalities-rept-ma-1.html>

It was a year ago today that Pierce County Deputy Sheriff Daniel McCartney was murdered while responding to a burglary call, and in July last year Kent Police Officer Diego Moreno died as a result of a pursuit of a violent armed felon.



Work Hard - Stay Safe

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