



Washington Association of
**SHERIFFS &
POLICE CHIEFS**

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December 16, 2019

Greetings from your Executive Director:

Here are a few updates as we head into the holidays- the first is unfortunately not good news at all. The **Supreme Court has chosen not to grant "cert" for the Martin v. Boise case**. This means they will not take up for review and possibly overturning the Ninth Circuit's previous decision. WASPC and the Washington State Sheriffs Association were both signed on to amicus briefs supporting the Supreme Court taking the case. There were an unusually high number of jurisdictions and entities filing amicus briefs in this case, which indicates how concerning it is.

This means the current ruling will now be case law- and the bottom line is that it will be much harder for local government to create or enforce laws that seek to reduce people sleeping on public, or even private, property. The ruling could, possibly, even affect laws against public urination or defecation. Here is the [news story](#) regarding the Supreme Court's decision (or rather, choosing not to make a decision), here is the [document](#) that was asking for "cert", and here is the [amicus](#) of which we were a part.

I would encourage you to make sure your city or county attorney is aware, and we will monitor what happens next.

Final reminder that we are holding a webinar tomorrow (Tuesday Dec. 17) at 10:00 for **Dan Christman from CJTC** to provide comprehensive information, and answer questions, about the new training and independent investigation rules. Once again, here is the information to access the course:

OIS Webcast

Tue, Dec 17, 2019 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM PST

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In a little "ray of light" this week, some of you may remember a few years ago when then-FBI Director James Comey was at the Seattle FBI Office and several Chiefs and Sheriffs were there. He was asked what his most significant concern was regarding security, and his answer was the **impact of technology companies "going dark" and building encryption systems that could not be accessed at all**, even by the company itself and even with a court warrant. Of course, total encryption would be great for terrorists, human traffickers and those involved in child exploitation. It is truly encouraging that in all the partisanship and division right now, and in the middle of the impeachment debate, a Senate Committee made very clear, in a bi-partisan way, that "going dark" would not be acceptable and the technology companies had better get on board. Story [here](#).

Happy Holidays to each of you and your families- here is to a safe and healthy 2020!

Work Hard- Have Fun- Stay Safe

Steven D. Strachan, Executive Director

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