



Washington Association of
**SHERIFFS &
POLICE CHIEFS**

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Greetings from Your Executive Director:

This is a long newsletter this week - lots of information but as always I will **highlight** the key words so you can scan and ensure your time is used productively. Also, any links or other references will be placed on our Resource Page so you can find again if needed.

###

First and foremost, we sent out a GTWO earlier today but all of us send our **condolences to Bainbridge Island PD on the passing of Officer Enget**. The department is treating this as a Line of Duty Death at this time.

###

All of us continue to work thorough staffing, response, and managing public safety in this environment. I would like to bring all of our members up to date on **what our local jails in Washington State have been doing** to manage the numbers of persons in their facilities in response to the COVID-19 global pandemic.

In early March, with the support of the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs, the jail commanders across Washington began weekly virtual meetings to facilitate and coordinate preparedness, to protect the health of both the corrections workforce and inmates.

Dr. Marc Stern, of the University of Washington's School of Public Health (who had been advising Washington's jail commanders long before the pandemic) participated in these meetings to answer questions, provide up to date information from the CDC about the coronavirus and provide advice on how each facility should best respond to the emerging health crisis.

Dr. Stern has reviewed several protocols and published a number of advisories for public agencies that have subsequently been shared nationwide by WASPC as the nation's jail and prison officials work to manage their facilities. Working with their local bar and courts, persons most vulnerable to the virus and who posed lower risk to the safety of their community received individual review to be released, prioritizing every jail bed for those that posed the most risk to the community.

Also initiated was a new set of strict guidelines on which charges officials would accept a person into jail and asking additional medical screening questions specifically related to the coronavirus. The collection of this new information has been crucial to help jails, prosecutors and courts balance the person's risk to the community with the health risk to the individual. Most importantly, should that person stay in jail, having the information and understanding up front of the risk that person poses to the health and safety of the facility, staff and other persons

Serving the Law Enforcement Community and the Citizens of Washington

incarcerated, is imperative in any sort of outbreak. This science-driven procedure at jail entry has been coupled with the implementation of best practices for health and hygiene.

In Washington State's 58 jails, the combined average number of persons in those facilities has been generally at about 12,000 over the past five years. In early April, the combined population was just more than 6000 with some of the smaller facilities empty. Washington's jails have been actively working to manage the health crisis, balancing public safety concerns with public health concerns.

Be aware that WASPC is providing an **amicus curiae brief** for the State Supreme Court in opposition to the lawsuit filed against the State asking for **large-scale release of inmates from the State Dept. of Corrections**. I will let you know how that progresses.

###

Another significant issue as we move forward is **awareness of and procedures for Extreme Risk Protection Orders** (ERPOs). Many of you are seeing a rise in domestic violence calls during the Stay at Home order. Former Bothell PD Chief Carol Cummings has worked with a group of prosecutors and advocates to prepare a helpful one-page document with good information about law enforcement-initiated Extreme Risk Protection Orders. It contains links to instructions, court filing forms and a podcast narrated by Chief Cummings especially for law enforcement about how these important tools can work for your agency.

Click [here](#) for the document.

The CJTC provides a training class on the role of Protection Orders, including Extreme Risk Protection Orders as well as Orders to Surrender Weapons. The course is accessible through the Learning Management System (LMS) Portal on the CJTC website. Click [here](#) to enter the CJTC website to access the Acadis Portal then go to Online Training. You will need your agency's training coordinator's permission to be assigned the class.

###

I had a question from a Chief last week about the process (sent out last week) for **Essential Business follow-up**. Basically, if a local law enforcement officer receives a local report of a business possibly in non-compliance with the order, and stops by to speak with the owner, they are sometimes told that "we checked with the state and they said it was OK." This leads to the question - is that true? The best answer I have found is that there should be an e-mail or other written communication to that effect from the state regulatory agency, and your team could, if they chose, ask about that. Again, all of this is based on your local resources and policy. This is provided as an answer if it is helpful in any way to you.

###

As the number and reports of **COVID-related scams and fraud continue to rise**, we wanted to share some information from the US Attorney's Office and the WA Attorney General's Office on how/where to make referrals for COVID-related consumer scams.

From the US Attorney's Office

The United States Attorney's Office wants to promote an informed, coordinated strategy among federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies who investigate Coronavirus-related complaints of fraud, hoarding, and price gouging. The United States Attorney's Office requests law enforcement officers utilize databases, such as the [FTC's Consumer Sentinel](#) and [FINCEN/SAR](#), together with local contacts, news reports, etc. to find complaints and generate leads.

Coronavirus-related complaints may be reported to the National Center for Disaster Fraud (NCDF) Hotline at 1-866-720-5721, or through its [website](#). To supplement the National sites to report COVID-19-related complaints, the United States Attorney's Office has established a dedicated [email](#) to report such complaints: USAWAW-CORONAVIRUS.WDWA@USDOJ.GOV.

Common scams include:

- Individuals and businesses selling fake cures for COVID-19 online;
- Phishing emails sent from entities posing as the World Health Organization ("WHO") or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC");
- Malware inserted onto mobile phones by apps pretending to track the spread of the virus; and Increased elder fraud and healthcare fraud.

The best law enforcement approach may be a rapid referral to our colleagues at HHS or FEMA to use their powers to take possession of a product. In other cases, traditional investigative and legal processes may be the best strategic approach. The [Justice](#) Department has begun fraud cases stemming from the coronavirus crisis.

Moving forward, we can anticipate criminal activity associated with bank, grant, and procurement fraud schemes as the CARES Act monies are disbursed.

From the WA Attorney General's Office

There's no better place than our complaint form: <https://www.atg.wa.gov/file-complaint>

Law enforcement officials are welcome to notify Deputy Attorney General Todd Bowers or Chief of Staff Mike Webb of egregious scam and fraud cases by emailing Todd.Bowers@atg.wa.gov or Mike.Webb@atg.wa.gov. These notifications should be in addition to filing a complaint via the aforementioned link.

###

In the midst of this public health crisis, it may seem "back burner" but it is important to remember our upcoming **National Crime Victims' Rights Week from April 19-25**, a time to celebrate progress achieved, raise awareness of victims' rights and services, and stand with our families, neighbors, friends, and colleagues whose lives have been forever altered by crime. Click [here](#) for the National Crime Victims' Rights Week resource guide.

As a part of WASPC's commitment to recognizing National Crime Victims' Rights Week and the importance of our members and their staff in the experiences of crime victims, WASPC would like to provide additional information about services that are available in our state to help crime victims.

- WASPC administers three heavily utilized programs that support victims of crime and community members in maintaining their safety:

- The [Victim Information and Notification Everyday \(VINE\)](#) system provides custody status change updates for individuals in the custody of law enforcement and DOC in our state.
 - The [VINE Protective Order \(VPO\)](#) system provides status information regarding protective orders and includes [denied firearms purchase notifications](#) to registrants.
 - The [Washington Statewide Registered Kidnapping and Sex Offender Public Website](#) provides information on registered sex offenders as outlined in RCW 4.24.550.
- The State of Washington, through a variety of different funding sources, has ensured that a victim of any crime, anywhere in our state, has access to social services provided by trained advocates. It is likely that you are already aware of the organizations in your community that provide these services; however, you may not be aware of the variety of services or the extent of the available programs. You may find the following links to be helpful:
 - [Office of Crime Victim Advocacy, Washington Department of Commerce](#)
 - [Crime Victim Compensation, Washington Department of Labor & Industries](#)
 - [Address Confidentiality Program, Washington Secretary of State](#)
 - [Washington Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs](#)
 - [Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence](#)
 - [National Domestic Violence Hotline](#)—800-799-7233
 - [Victim Support Services—Statewide Hotline](#)—888-288-9221

Please contact the WASPC Projects and Programs Department at (360) 486-2414 or programs@waspc.org if you would like additional information on resources available to support victims of crime. The Projects and Programs Department is also available to provide training on VINE, VPO and Sex Offender Registration and Notification at no cost.

###

James McMahan, our Policy Director, has been working with the CJTC to ask for a proclamation **allowing for the re-hire of recently retired law enforcement**, at the discretion of the Chief or Sheriff, to mitigate staffing needs during the COVID crisis. A proclamation was issued allowing this and waiving some rules, but did not include a waiver for Civil Service or certain other requirements. We have asked for a follow up proclamation and will advise if and when that is acted upon. This would apply only to recent retirements in good standing, returning to the same department, and only at the discretion of the Chief or Sheriff. If you have questions please contact James at james@waspc.org

###

Once again, I remind you to check on our [Resource Page](#) frequently - it is always updated.

###

Here is a **message from Starbucks**:

In appreciation of you - first responders, frontline health care and medical providers - who are doing so much to take care of our communities, and inspired by our partners (employees) across the globe who have already been donating coffee on their own, we are *offering free tall hot or iced brewed coffee to those on the front lines responding to COVID-19 until May 3*. This includes first responders and frontline health care and medical providers; law enforcement officers, firefighters, paramedics, EMTs, doctors, nurses, hospital and medical staff and medical

researchers.

Additionally, The Starbucks Foundation will donate \$500,000 to support U.S. frontline responders with equal donations to [Direct Relief](#) to support the delivery of personal protective equipment and essential medical items and to [Operation Gratitude](#) to deliver 50,000 care packages and hand written letters to first responders and health care workers.

Now more than ever -- thank you for all that you do.

Stay Safe!

Steve

Steven D. Strachan, Executive Director
Washington Association of Sheriffs & Police Chiefs