



Washington Association of  
**SHERIFFS &  
POLICE CHIEFS**

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From your Executive Director:

There are a lot of people talking about law enforcement right now-publicly, privately, on social media, and everywhere else. With all of the talk, **now is a good time for listening and engaging in meaningful conversations with your community. We are here to provide support for those communications as we work through this challenging time.**

Here is a good [column](#) done this week by Sequim Chief Sheri Crain.

Last week, we provided these [reforms](#) WASPC has supported in the past. We are currently looking at the [proposals](#) introduced this week in the US House.

Both nationally and in this state, we have quality **frameworks** upon which many of our agencies have utilized, and can continue to build and expand, as we move forward. The first is the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing [recommendations](#), which of course included Director Rahr from our Training Commission. These reforms focused on these six pillars:

1. Building Trust and Legitimacy
2. Policy and Oversight
3. Technology and Social Media
4. Community Policing and Crime Reduction
5. Training and Education
6. Officer Wellness and Safety

In terms of **use of force standards**, there is a good [model](#) completed by PERF, which also provides a strong framework moving forward.

We will also work for better tools for Chiefs and Sheriffs to effect reform and a culture that supports the vast majority of officers and deputies who do it right every day- particularly in the area of arbitration. There has been a great deal of discussion nationally involving these challenges.

It is clear that people do not want the status quo. Once the national conversation moves toward outcomes, we are here to focus on solutions. We have shown that we are a partner for elected policy makers and the community to move forward productively.

Part of the national conversation right now is on "defunding" the police. Here is an [article](#) from a few years ago that defines well what *some* may mean by that term. Although it means different things to different groups and people. It may mean, "punish by taking away resources", it may mean "reimagining" or it may mean "let's decide what we expect from law enforcement and how do we better address funding for social problems?" [Here](#) are our Principles for Public Trust

***Serving the Law Enforcement Community and the Citizens of Washington***

(adopted in January 2019)- which include the following statements that specifically address some of these topics. **I invite you to read them again, and use these in your communications as we move forward.** Here is a [column](#) from yesterday on defunding the police from Professor Jacqueline Helfgott and why she feels that is a bad idea.

WASPC has advocated, consistently, for better resources and non-law enforcement solutions for a number of issues: homelessness, mental health, and substance abuse. We have advocated for investments in reducing recidivism and robust "wrap-around" services for mental and behavioral health. We have been open and have helped implement reforms in the past, and stand ready to work on them in the future.

While there will be division and disagreements, we need to be willing to listen and move forward.

We will keep you updated- thanks

*Stay Safe- Steve*

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