



Washington Association of  
**SHERIFFS &  
POLICE CHIEFS**

3060 Willamette Drive NE  
Lacey, WA 98516  
360-486-2380 (Phone)  
360-486-2381 (Fax)  
www.waspc.org

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November 13, 2020

Greetings from your Executive Director:

Sheriffs and Chiefs continue to balance and communicate support for thoughtful reform, and reinforcement of the great work of our officers, deputies, troopers, corrections, and support staff. They bear the weight of performing their jobs in a demanding environment **We recognize that balance, and the need to value and honor the good work your teams are doing every day, in every community.**

- All of us extend our condolences to Pierce County Sheriff Bomkamp and his team on the loss of Deputy Shuey this week following a medical emergency while on duty.
- Thankfully, both King County two deputies who were shot and injured this week responding to a car prowler call are on the road to recovery.

The word challenging has been overused and is probably no longer strong enough, but please know we are here to support you as you face these challenges.

At our Fall Conference next week, Dr. Javidi will conduct a session on resiliency. I encourage everyone to make sure you are taking care of yourself. You are all expected to be “the rock” and it is especially important and difficult right now. Each of us is here for each other.

#### **Election:**

While many predicted problems and unrest on election day, there were very few incidents in Washington state or nationally. The outcome speaks to the good work of local law enforcement who work for and are accountable to local voters. For all the division and strong feelings, that local control is important.

Congratulations to Kittitas County Sheriff Clay Myers, elected last week after being appointed to complete Sheriff Dana’s term, and also to Pierce County Sheriff-Elect Ed Troyer.

#### **Fall Conference:**

Our 2020 Fall conference will kick off at 1pm Tuesday November 17 with the CJTC Panel: Status of IIT Rules and Future Training Updates. Here is a [link](#) to the WASPC conference webpage. Event details, registration information and a conference schedule are available. All of the conference information is also available on the WASPC app. It can be downloaded from your app store. There is no cost for WASPC members and we will have 7 hours of training available in addition to our regular meetings. We are looking forward to robust virtual involvement from all of the attendees, speakers, and panelists. Contact Deb Gregory ([dgregory@waspc.org](mailto:dgregory@waspc.org)) if you need any assistance with registration or have questions.

## COVID:

COVID continues to be a major factor in our lives and in our work. Your teams have worked within the restrictions, 24/7, and have balanced maintaining public trust with demands to enforce, or not enforce, orders.

I came across this in an email from late March, and it speaks to the ongoing challenges of the pandemic. *“This is a large-scale exercise in social adherence for common benefit. Massive disruption has been driven by the rapidly changing epidemiological environment, but there will be a point at which the social, economic and civil environment will become equally as important.”*

Those social, economic, and civil environments have continued to be challenges, and all involve law enforcement. They impact us professionally and personally.

Some of you have been aware of, or dealt with, **groups entering retail stores without masks to protest** or otherwise express opinions about mask mandates. [Here](#) is some information and factors that we have shared with retail stores and culled from advice from agencies who have handled a few of these. As always, we start with the caveat that each community makes their own decisions, and any response will be driven by local decisions.

## Policy issues:

Oregon voters approved an initiative (Measure 110) to decriminalize possession of small amounts (small amounts yet to be determined) for controlled substances. The initiative pitch is “treatment first”, focusing on taking funds from marijuana revenue to pay for more treatment. A Washington State group supports a similar initiative- [here](#) is a link FYI.

When asked for our feedback here was our response--

*WASPC has no comment on the Oregon ballot initiative. If such a measure comes before the Washington legislature or the voters, we would review it at that time. By way of background, WASPC has been at the forefront of actions to provide treatment as an alternative to arrest or jail for people whose criminal behavior is driven by addiction, and [WASPC's Arrest and Jail Alternatives Program](#) is designed to do just that. We have requested that state funding for this program be doubled in the next state budget.*

This week a separate initiative to the Washington legislature (I-1300) was announced. From a very brief overview it appears to guarantee free COVID vaccines, prohibit "chokeholds" (and increase legal exposure for using them), and restoration of stronger forms of affirmative action. We will keep you in the loop as we learn more.

You may have seen or heard about a very far-reaching legislative proposal involving officer decertification forwarded by Senator Jamie Pederson, and we have been asked whether we support that proposal. The short answer is no-- we have a decertification proposal in our [reform recommendations](#) but ours is very different from the proposal from Senator Pederson—here is our [response](#) to Sen. Pederson outlining our concerns and opposition to that bill.

I have had a few questions from Sheriffs and Chiefs about whether CARES Act funds can be used for certain programs, including body cameras and other costs. I have attached an [“Eligible Cost Test”](#) document from the State Dept. of Commerce to assist in those considerations and to help guide how those proposals would be viewed from their agency.

Finally, here is a reminder from our Policy Director, James McMahan that we have a “legislative Listserv” to receive and provide feedback on legislative proposals. We encourage you to sign up and it will assist you in keeping track and assist us in getting good feedback and raising the right questions. Here’s how:

1. Go to [www.waspc.org](http://www.waspc.org)
2. Click the 'Member Login' button on the top right
3. Enter your username and password and click "login"
4. Click "My Profile"
5. Hover your mouse over "My Features" and click on "E-lists" in the drop down menu
6. You will see there is one "E-list available to join." Click "Subscribe" next to the Legislative E-List.
7. Check the "Email delivery" box, enter your email address, then click "save."
8. Congratulate yourself with a pat on the back because you successfully signed yourself up for the Legislative Committee E-list.

Stay Safe!

- Steve