



Washington Association of  
**SHERIFFS &  
POLICE CHIEFS**

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Greetings from your Executive Director:

As we work through so many aspects of this health crisis that have disrupted every part of our lives, each of you needs to know that for every piece of bad news and chaos, there is also a strong message of safety and hope.

While we are seeing impressive agreements and rapid decisions coming from federal, state, and local governments, we are in a place where people are divided on who to trust and who provides them with reliable information. There are few people in a better position to deliver a direct, unbiased message to the specific needs of their communities than Sheriffs and Chiefs.

What we do best is establish that sense of stability that people need so much right now. We are locally elected, locally appointed, and locally accountable. We know our communities and how best to provide reliable and needed information and support.

We continue to need to balance communication with all of those unknowns out there in this unprecedented health emergency. The goal is to acknowledge we are in uncharted waters, and there are serious and important directives we are all being asked to follow, even when it flies in the face of how we live.

We are a country of people who value freedom and the ability to make our own choices. This crisis places law enforcement squarely in the middle of communicating a very difficult message to our communities— we need to work together and it's about “us” not “me”.

We have never been faced with a challenge like this. Keep in mind that for all of your professional lives you and your teams have been focused on service no matter the crisis. And-- that is exactly what you have been doing. Right now, our communication matters more than ever. We need to maintain that sense of hope and protect public safety in the face of completely new challenges.

While you take care of yourself, take care of your family, and take care of your teams, remember your key role in messaging to your community.

It is my honor to work with each of you--

*Steve*

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