



Washington Association of
**SHERIFFS &
POLICE CHIEFS**

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

FOR RELEASE
September 12, 2021

Contact:
Steven D. Strachan, Executive Director
(260) 486-2380

LAW ENFORCEMENT GROUPS ANNOUNCE LARGEST POLICE-COMMUNITY OUTREACH INITIATIVE EVER
*As crime escalates and tensions between police and some communities linger,
law enforcement organizations are uniting with local communities for
National Faith & Blue Weekend 2021 (October 8-11) to encourage dialogue and collaboration*

(Lacey, WA) – The Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) along with every major national law enforcement group, state and regional associations representing 47 states, the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, is partnering with Atlanta-based MovementForward, Inc.’s One Congregation One Precinct (OneCOP) initiative to jointly organize the most consolidated police-community outreach project in history - **National Faith & Blue Weekend 2021 (Faith & Blue)**. The effort is sponsored by [FirstNet, Built with AT&T](#) and the Motorola Solutions Foundation. The mission is to facilitate safer, stronger and more unified communities by connecting law enforcement officers and residents through local faith-based and community organizations.

Faith & Blue 2021 is slated for Friday, October 8 – Monday, October 11, with planned activities such as community dialogues, peace marches, service projects and other interactive experiences to help foster ongoing, authentic and mutual community-law enforcement trust.

“For the past several years, we’ve seen enormous strains in the relationship between law enforcement and communities,” says MovementForward CEO and Faith & Blue lead organizer Rev. Markel Hutchins. “Recent times have proven that we cannot simply march and protest away the problems — we have to turn our pain into power,” continues Rev. Hutchins. “Our pathway to progress around policing as a nation is a collaborative one that focuses on our commonalities rather than our differences.” As the nation continues to grapple with recent discord between law enforcement and some of the communities they serve, Faith & Blue weekend will address the urgent yet longstanding need for authentic collaboration between law enforcement and residents. In its inaugural year of 2020, National Faith & Blue Weekend facilitated 1,000 community-led activities in 43 states and the District of Columbia.

Collaborations between law enforcement and local groups – especially faith-based organizations – are invaluable force-multipliers for creating safer and more engaged communities. Faith & Blue will positively impact Americans by directly engaging community influencers, residents, and law enforcement professionals in every state across the United States.

"Faith-based organizations and law enforcement groups are uniquely and deeply tied to their communities and it is through collaborative and respectful dialogue that common ground can be found," says Jason Porter, president, Public Sector and FirstNet, AT&T. "As America's public safety partner, it's our honor to support the grassroots effort of Faith & Blue to strengthen police-community relations in neighborhoods across the country."

"Motorola Solutions Foundation is honored to support National Faith & Blue Weekend as it drives important conversations and strengthens connections between law enforcement and communities across the United States," says Jack Molloy, Board Member, Motorola Solutions Foundation and Executive Vice President of Products, Sales & Services, Motorola Solutions.

Launched in October 2020 in the wake of the controversial deaths of George Floyd and other law enforcement-involved tragedies, Faith & Blue is an unprecedented national law enforcement-community engagement project involving dozens of state law enforcement professional associations, the federal government, and nearly **every major national law enforcement group** in the United States of America including:

- Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association
- Fraternal Order of Police
- Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association
- International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators
- International Association of Chiefs of Police
- International Brotherhood of Police Officers
- Major Cities Chiefs Association
- Major County Sheriffs of America
- National Association of Assistant United States Attorneys
- National Association of Women Law Enforcement Executives
- National Black Police Association
- National District Attorneys' Association
- National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund and Museum
- National Narcotics Officers' Associations' Coalition
- National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives
- National Police Foundation
- National Sheriffs' Association
- Police Executive Research Forum
- Secure Community Network
- Small & Rural Law Enforcement Executive Association
- Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, United States Department of Justice
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security
- FBI National Academy Associates

For more information about National Faith & Blue Weekend (Faith & Blue), visit www.faithandblue.org.