

# WASPC 2012 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

## Expanding DNA Collection to Felony Arrestees—HB 2588

**Issue:** DNA is a powerful investigatory and crime prevention tool. Numerous other states provide for collection of DNA upon arrest for a felony. Experiences in other states, including New Mexico, have demonstrated that collection from arrestees does lead to arrest and conviction of offenders, particularly serious violent and sex offenders.

**Proposal:** WASPC supports the passage of legislation which provides for DNA collection from adults arrested for, at a minimum, a violent offense, sex offense and burglary. WASPC also supports legislation that would include all felony crimes. The sample collection process should provide for law enforcement to take samples at time of booking and send them immediately to the crime lab. Requiring sample entry into the database only once an offender is formally charged /there has been a judicial determination of probable cause will assist in assuaging potential evidentiary burdens on jails and Constitutional issues.

## Washington Auto Theft Prevention Authority

**Issue:** The WATPA continues to be funded by collections of the \$10 fee on traffic tickets. In the new biennial 2011-13 budget, \$5.9 million was appropriated from the account to WATPA and an additional \$3 million to WASPC and other law enforcement related programs. The Legislature shifted about \$13 million in WATPA funds to DOC and \$500,000 to the Department of Commerce. The funds allocated to WATPA support continued existence of the eight task forces funded by WATPA grants but with some reductions. The funding has been instrumental in reducing auto theft around the state, crimes that often affect lower-income residents, an important issue in this economic climate.

**Proposal:** WASPC wants to ensure that no further diversions of funding from the Authority occur in the 2012 Supplemental Budget. Additionally, the current source of WATPA funding from traffic tickets should not be altered.

## Increase Statute of Limitations for Trafficking in Stolen Property—HB 2354/SB 6143

**Issue:** Currently only a few crimes under the general statute of limitations provisions in RCW 9A.04.080 (1)(d) provide for a six year statute of limitations. These crimes include property related offenses such as theft, money laundering, leading organized crime and identity theft. Auto theft task force work reveals that many stolen vehicles get stripped and engines, transmissions, airbags and numerous other vehicle components that are removed are sold. Due the fact that the majority of these components are concealed within the next vehicle they are used in, it may take years to detect the parts as evidence. By this time, trafficking in stolen property is the only charge open for prosecution given the facts and circumstances. However, given its three year statute of limitations, prosecutors are often left with no options.

**Proposal:** New legislation should be passed adding Trafficking Stolen Property in the First and Second Degrees (RCW 9A.82.050 /RCW 9A.82.055) to RCW 9A.040.080 (1)(d) so they are governed by the extended six year statute of limitations.



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- Increase Statute of Limitations for Trafficking in Stolen Property
- Protecting Law Enforcement Crime Prevention Program Information
- BLEA Funding
- WASPC Operating Budget

If you have any questions regarding the information provided in this publication please contact Joanna Arlow, WASPC Policy Director, at (360) 486-2401 or [jarlow@waspc.org](mailto:jarlow@waspc.org).

### Protecting Law Enforcement Residential and Commercial Crime Prevention Program Information—EHB 1234/SSB 5244 (2011)

**Issue:** Information gathered as part of law enforcement crime prevention programs regarding residential and commercial burglar alarm systems and vacation or “home watch” programs are often established by local ordinance. Burglar alarm system programs either maintain or have agency access to a complete database of sensitive information that identifies those residences or businesses that operate an intrusion alarm system, their address and phone numbers, the monitoring company, the registration number used by the company to report an alarm activation to law enforcement. In some jurisdictions, members of the public can also notify local law enforcement of their intention to be on vacation and request safety checks of their property, often done by civilian volunteers. The agency necessarily keeps files regarding which homeowners are away from their property. The information collected pursuant to both types of programs is subject to public disclosure requests and could be used to target residences and businesses as victims of burglary or other crimes, such as stalking.

**Proposal:** Add a section to the law enforcement information section of the Public Records Act under RCW42.56.240 that exempts the personally identifying information collected for these programs from public disclosure, while maintaining an owner’s right to access his or her own information.

### Basic Law Enforcement Academy Training (BLEA) Funding—Maintaining State Support and opposing HB 2134

**Issue:** HB 2134 seeks to require by statute that local jurisdictions reimburse the CJTC 50% of BLEA and specialty training costs for trainee officers. The CJTC was established in 1974 to provide standardized professional basic law enforcement training and historically was funded by a ticket surcharge on traffic tickets directed to the Public Safety and Education Account until 2009, when the Legislature abolished the fund. However, the funding source remains, thus locals are still contributing the funding of nearly \$100 million dollars, in addition to the salaries and other costs agency’s provide for trainees.

**Proposal:** Oppose the passage of HB 2134 and ensure that the State continues its obligation to use General State Funds for the CJTC and BLEA and not require any increase in local cost-reimbursement.

### WASPC Operating Budget

The WASPC Operating Budget funding from State General Funds was reduced approximately \$800,000 for the biennium, necessitating some programmatic reductions. Additional budget reductions to WASPC programs will result in the elimination of the program. Some examples of these programs are the Statewide Victim Notification Program, Sex Offender Address Verification, the Offender Watch System and Website, National Incident Based Crime Reporting, the Missing Persons Website, and the Jail Booking and Reporting System. Although the state is experiencing significant budget shortfalls, these statewide criminal justice programs are cost effective and a significant part of community safety.

### About WASPC

**Mission:** The mission of the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) is to lead collaboration among law enforcement executives to enhance public safety.

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