



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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Greetings from your Executive Director:

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It was good to see many of you at our fall conference last week. The information from the meetings is still available on the WASPC Conference app. We really appreciate everyone's engagement as we continue to work for improvements and to learn from each other!

HB 2015

One of the panels at the fall conference was on HB 2015, and we appreciate staff from CJTC and the Governor's Office who attended to get feedback and take questions. CJTC has posted that *"WSCJTC is updating the Sales & Use Tax Authorization applications. Current applications remain available and will continue to be accepted during this update process"* on its website, and we can expect further updates based in part on some of your feedback and suggestions. We will see if those changes result in an improved process. Many thanks to Bellingham Chief Mertzig for facilitating the panel.

Office of Independent Investigations (OII)

Following the panel at the conference, OII asked that we pass along [this](#) letter regarding some of the concerns raised and they continue to invite feedback.

Automated License Plate Readers

The topic of ALPRs continues to be a focus for those who have these systems in place. I am providing some examples of what agencies are doing, so you can review and consider as a resource. WASPC has developed a short [statement](#) regarding ALPRs that we will use to respond to media inquiries. It is also posted on our website. Feel free to use any or part of it if you wish. We are also aware that Flock, one of the ALPR systems in place in some communities, is working on additional changes to assist in resolving concerns.

There continues to be a lot of media coverage, and it fits into the current zeitgeist of issues being viewed through the lens of the federal administration. What has always been an accepted practice (cooperation with our federal partners) is now seen very differently. Our state is one of many that has specific laws limiting cooperation or communication with federal partners about civil immigration enforcement.

Serving the Law Enforcement Community and the Citizens of Washington

While people have intense opinions about the federal administration and the differing policies of the federal government and our state, we continue to need to be the local government agencies trying to balance the two, follow the law, both the Federal and State Constitutions, and uphold public safety.

As Seattle Times columnist Danny Westneat [points out](#) the prism where every issue is all about the federal administration is having a significant effect on politics and the decisions our elected officials make. ALPRs are depicted as part of some sort of overarching surveillance state. At the same time, we know these systems are a huge force multiplier, have resulted in bringing justice to victims of serious crimes like homicide and trafficking, but also theft, hit and run, and to help locate missing people. We need to do all we can to help our leaders make reasonable and pragmatic decisions for good public policy, at a time when reasonableness and pragmatism are not rewarded politically.

Washington State is last in the nation in staffing, and we have been told to “work smarter.” ALPRs are a pointer system to better identify leads and improve outcomes. I am providing information below to be a possible resource for you as you determine the best way forward for your agencies:

Sno Co Regional Group and Marysville Police Department

[Here](#) is a link to information provided by the Snohomish County Regional Group and the Marysville Police Department.

Centralia Press Release

[Here](#) is a release sent out by Centralia Police from Chief Caldwell.

Media Coverage

[Here](#) is a link to a Seattle area radio show where the host talks about the issue of Flock cameras and PDRs from the 2:00 mark to the 8:00 minute mark.

More:

[Washington state cities turn off license plate reader cameras amid ruling on data access](#)

[WA cities reconsider Flock traffic cameras as judge rules their data is public | The Seattle Times](#)

[Skamania County turns off Flock cameras after court rules images are public records | kgw.com](#)

Future Proposed Legislation on ALPR

Here is a summary of some of the potential legislation for the 2026 session.

- Strongly limits when government agencies can use automated license plate readers (ALPRs) and the data they collect.
- Allows ALPR to be used only for specific purposes: serious law enforcement needs (like stolen cars, missing/endangered people, felony warrants), parking enforcement (??), secured-area access control, tolling, traffic studies, and certain commercial vehicle enforcement.
- Bans ALPR use for immigration enforcement or to monitor constitutionally protected activities (like protests, religious services, or political meetings) and prohibits collecting data around protected health care and immigration service facilities.
- Imposes strict data retention limits (most data deleted within hours or days, unless kept under a court warrant or subpoena) and sharply restricts sharing, selling, or outside access to ALPR data.
- Requires agencies that use ALPRs to adopt public policies, publish annual reports on their use, and **creates a private right of action so individuals can** sue for violations and recover damages and attorney fees.

Many thanks to all of you and stay safe! Steve