



April 16, 2026

Greetings from your Executive Director:

Here are a few updates for this week--

SB 6002 ALPR

James McMahan and Adam Carney, WASPC's policy team, continue to work with our Technology Committee to assist agencies regarding the effects of SB 6002. The restrictions and ambiguities provided in the bill have prompted reasonable responses by some agencies to shut off their ALPR programs; develop policies to comply with the law in the hopes to reactivate ALPRs again in the future; or keep their ALPRs on and muddle through with amended policies and expectations. [Here](#) is one story about the effects of the law, [here](#) is another, and the recurring theme is that there are a lot of unknowns.

We will continue to engage in good faith to identify lawful, practical solutions that may allow some agencies to choose to provide this valuable resource to their communities, consistent with the new statute. The Attorney General's Office has until mid-2027 to develop model policies. Experience suggests that, regardless of the approach taken, some will seek opportunities for criticism rather than engagement; that reality should not deter thoughtful, balanced policy development.

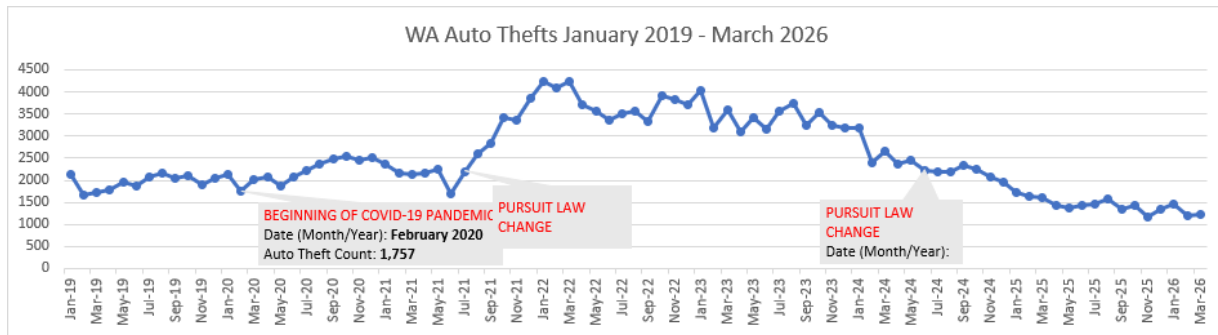
I was struck recently by an anecdote about this legislation in which law enforcement was described—dismissively—as “fans” of the technology because it helps solve crimes. The implication seemed to be that assisting victims and holding offenders accountable is somehow outdated. We are clear and unapologetic that public safety, accountability, and service to victims remain central values, and that responsible use of effective tools can advance those goals and remain consistent with the law and appropriate safeguards.

The ALPR survey [here](#) has had over fifty responses so far. Almost 80 percent of those responding have been using ALPRs in some form, with less than 12 percent using mobile units only. Fifty-eight percent of responding agencies have done a complete or partial shutdown of their systems since the law went into effect, with 42 percent keeping ALPRs on. Fifty-seven percent say they intend to use ALPRs again once

policies and other issues are made clearer, while 28 percent are unclear as yet, and 15 percent say they do not intend to implement ALPRs again regardless. We are still seeking information, so if you have not completed the survey we would appreciate your input!

Vehicle theft

Here is the most current graph of vehicle thefts in our state, which shows that after the large spikes following the pursuit law changes, we have seen dramatic drops in thefts, even below pre-Covid numbers. When I ask executives and prosecutors the main reasons why, the answer I most commonly get is “they know we can chase them now” and “technology and working smarter.” It’s only a few months, but we have seen vehicle theft numbers ticking upward a little bit- not enough to call it a trend yet but we’ll watch it closely.



CJTC Executive Director Search

The CJTC has sent out [this survey](#) to assist in its search process for a permanent Executive Director.

Committees/Work Groups

Many thanks to some of you who responded for some of the ongoing committee and work group openings. There are a number of statewide committees with a WASPC or law enforcement executive representative, so the need is ongoing and we deeply appreciate those who are willing to assist and step up. Here is an updated list of committees where we are soliciting interest. If anyone has previously indicated interest, we are often asked for more than one applicant for appointment from the Governor, so we may be looking for additional names:

1. The [Children’s Justice Task Force](#) will need a new WASPC rep as Sheriff Nowels has reached his maximum term of six years.
2. The Fusion Center Board [Washington State Fusion Center \(WSFC\)](#) needs a Western Washington representative.
3. The retirement of Pasco Chief Ken Roske creates an opening for an alternate, non-voting Police Chief [CJTC](#) Commissioner position. We have had an eastern Washington Chief express interest, but if you would like to be considered let myself or Sheriff Nowels know- this position is appointed by the Governor.
4. We need a Sheriff representative to serve during the 2026–2028 term of the [FBI’s Criminal Justice Information Services \(CJIS\) Division Advisory Process Western Working Group](#). The

Advisory Policy Board (APB) is a federal advisory committee established to provide recommendations to the FBI Director regarding national CJIS-managed systems including: the National Crime Information Center (NCIC), Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR), Next Generation Identification System (NGI), National Data Exchange (N-DEx), Law Enforcement Enterprise Portal (LEEP), and National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS). Sheriff Tanksley's term on this board has ended.

Pursuit Data- Second Request

This request is specifically for those agencies that provided pursuit data to the University of Washington study completed several months ago and whose data was "anonymized" in that study.

You may remember that the legislature required the [study](#) which was conducted by Univ. of Washington Professor Fred Rivara and his team. The findings from the study indicated that the legislative changes to restrict pursuit policies reduced pursuits and, thereby, reduced injuries resulting from pursuits. However, the number of pursuits and injuries from pursuits is just one side of the story. The other side of the story is the potential impact of police pursuits on criminal activity. In follow up legislation that loosened restrictions on pursuit policies, the legislature acknowledged the possibility that fewer pursuits may embolden individuals to commit more crimes as they anticipate being able to avoid apprehension when officers cannot pursue.

Researchers at Clemson University and the University of South Carolina have asked us to help with a follow-up study that examines this possibility. Unfortunately, the University of Washington study was conducted on the condition of anonymity, so the South Carolina research team is unable to obtain the pursuit data your agency provided to UW. As a result, the research team is asking if those agencies which had provided data for that UW study to voluntarily send them:

1. The same vehicular pursuit data that you sent to the University of Washington.
2. Your policies related to vehicular pursuits from 2019-2024. Please include their effective dates if your policies changed during that period.

This will allow them to connect this data to crime data from the Washington State Statistical Analysis Center to conduct a robust analysis of how vehicular pursuit policies affect crime.

To submit your data and policies or to ask any follow up questions, please contact: Kyle McLean, Ph.D., kdmclea@clemson.edu, Director, Center for Public Safety Research, Clemson University

Sheriff Budrow

Many of you are aware that Sheriff Paul Budrow has chosen to step down from his elected position as Okanogan County Sheriff to become the Chief in Twisp. [Here](#) is a column he authored explaining the reasons behind his decision that is worth reading as we all try to balance family, work and the ongoing challenges we face in this profession. I am pleased we will continue to work with Sheriff (now Chief) Budrow, and congratulations to Sheriff [Jodie Barcus](#) as she steps up to become the new Okanogan County Sheriff.

Stay Safe and thanks for all you do! Steve