



Washington Association of
**SHERIFFS &
POLICE CHIEFS**

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Greetings from your Executive Director:

It was great to see many of you at our Spring Conference this year, and as we head into the new season here are a few updates:

Domestic Violence Training Requirements

Some agencies have shared concerns with us that the CJTC's new Domestic Violence Training following the passage of HB 1715 may require anyone (including patrol officers and anyone in the agency) to take the entire multi-day course regarding trauma-informed response. While all of us appreciate the need for the training if resources allowed it, the requirement was going to be very difficult to achieve (along with all of the other mandates) by the stated timeline. The bill was intended to ensure that investigators responsible for follow-up and more comprehensive investigations received the training.

We communicated with the Interim CJTC Executive Director, Jerrell Wills, and today they let us know they got confirmation that the intended audience would be those who would be responsible for follow-up investigations and NOT those being dispatched to initial calls for service. They indicated they hope that will help relieve some concerns. Additionally, Executive Director Wills has asked their staff to develop a training program that incorporates real-time virtual training as well as statewide regional site training. We appreciate the Director's responsiveness on this issue and if you have any questions let us know or contact CJTC.

Immigration/Federal Enforcement

Those of you who attended the conference heard both Pete Serrano from the Eastern District and Neil Floyd from the Western District talk about the respective U.S. Attorneys' Offices and their work. In the midst of the ongoing conflict between Washington State's policies around Keep Washington Working (KWW) and federal priorities regarding immigration, the need for communication and ensuring public safety continues. This week, the [Dept. of Justice](#) sued the state for not providing covert license plates for federal law enforcement and [here](#) is the filed complaint, along with the [response](#) from the State Attorney General.

We understand that the Dept. of Licensing (DOL) indicated they would issue emergency rulemaking before the close of business Thursday, May 28 to say that confidential plates are to be for criminal investigations only. WASPC understands that they do not expect this emergency rule to have any impact on state or local law enforcement agencies. Per the Administrative Procedures Act, the emergency rule will go into effect immediately, followed by a formal rulemaking process, including

input from stakeholders. We have asked that we be included as a stakeholder in that rulemaking process so we can submit comments.

One of the presenters at our conference was Imran Ali, a former Minnesota prosecutor who now provides legal training to law enforcement agencies nationwide. He discussed Minnesota's Operation Metro Surge in January and highlighted several key lessons. First, there was a lack of consistent training, organizational oversight, and clearly defined legal procedures among some—though not all—federal law enforcement personnel during that operation. Second, communication gaps between federal and local agencies were unacceptable and created real safety risks for both officers and the public. Third, once federal authorities clarified expectations and improved communication, the most concerning practices were quickly corrected.

These observations point to a broader reality: both the federal government and state governments have legitimate authority, responsibilities, and legal frameworks—but those frameworks do not always align. When they come into conflict, the result is often confusion, inconsistent practices, and unnecessary risk. Rather than allowing these conflicts to be driven or prolonged by politics, the focus should be on public safety, operational clarity, and building trust within the communities we serve.

Minnesota offers a practical path forward. Their current approach is to clearly define the circumstances under which state and local agencies would cooperate with federal immigration authorities, particularly regarding access to certain defined individuals in local custody who may be subject to deportation. There appears to be broad political agreement that individuals involved in violent crime, trafficking, or other serious offenses should be made available to federal authorities when legally appropriate. The key questions for states with differing policy priorities are when that cooperation should occur—whether pre-conviction, after charges are filed, or only following conviction—and how to ensure the process respects both state law and federal obligations.

Establishing clear, transparent guidelines—along with strong communication protocols between federal, state, and local agencies—can reduce uncertainty, improve officer and public safety, and strengthen public trust. Importantly, it can also address concerns within immigrant communities. Minnesota's emerging approach demonstrates that when expectations are clearly defined and communication is prioritized, many of these challenges can be resolved.

This is a solvable problem. It requires acknowledging the legitimacy of both federal and state roles, while committing to coordination and clarity over political positioning. When policymakers choose to work together with that focus, the result is safer communities, more effective law enforcement, and greater public confidence.

In addition, Imran provided useful information on current case law regarding the 4th Amendment. [Here](#) is a document summarizing the current state of that area of law for your information.

Fraud Cases Involving Crypto

Omak Chief Dan Christensen passed along that his agency was working a fraud case and came across an investigator with the Washington State Dept. of Financial Institutions (DFI). He said they

have been a great resource for investigating crypto type fraud at the Coinstar machines using another utility called "Coinme". The investigator indicated they are there to assist agencies when requested on these types of cases-- here is the contact information:

Zoë J. Smith, Financial Examiner, Department of Financial Institutions, Securities Division, Enforcement Unit

360-764-6419, zoe.smith@dfi.wa.gov, P.O. Box 41200, Olympia, WA 98504

Homeland Security Task Forces- White Paper

[Here](#) is a white paper issued by a number of associations, including the National Sheriffs Association, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, and the National HIDTA Directors Association regarding task forces, for your information.

HB 2015

[Here](#) is a story Fox 13 News recently ran about the challenges of implementing and hiring utilizing HB 2015.

Thanks for all you do and stay safe! Steve