



Washington Association of
**SHERIFFS &
POLICE CHIEFS**

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Greetings from your Executive Director:

Public Defender Standards

The Washington State Supreme Court order regarding Public Defender Caseload Standards was sent out last week in a [GTWO](#) and [here](#) is the analysis from the Washington State Association of Counties, and [here](#) was our statement to the Court about the issue. Please make sure your counsel is aware of the order and analysis.

OII/IIT

Following the OII/IIT Ad Hoc Committee meeting at our spring conference the co-chairs, Chief Dan Christman and Sheriff John Horch, have passed along feedback and concerns to Director Rogoff for his information and follow up. Director Rogoff sent [this](#) letter for distribution to our members, and for your information. We will continue to provide feedback and information as the rollout of teams across the state progresses. For your information, [here](#) is an article about the budget cuts to OII from the most recent state budget.

Immigration

Our agencies continue to provide public safety despite competing and opposing priorities and pressures between our state and federal elected officials. [This article](#) is a prime example of how local agencies continue to be placed in the middle, and how media outlets will cover it in ways that are neither balanced nor productive. The headline alleges that “police fire pepper balls on protesters” and describes how municipal officers “dressed in riot gear arrived in a pickup. They piled out of the bed of the truck...” This is loaded language intended to create a perception that they are overly aggressive, and the use of “riot” gear as opposed to “protective” gear is intentional. Most tellingly, the story waits until the 14th paragraph of a 17-paragraph story to mention that “protesters” had blocked the exits to the building and had not obeyed lawful orders to allow exit. Lawful protesters continue to be confused, in these types of media stories, with these small groups that show up to hijack protests, prepared with frozen water bottles, rocks, and barricades intent on causing confrontation. That they threw these objects at officers and blocked exits to a building would seem to be a meaningful point but is minimized in the story. Local law enforcement may not always have clear information about the timing and purpose of events. Events where groups will force some sort of interaction and stand around with cell phones hoping to create a viral moment for political attention, clicks, and revenue are likely to continue to happen.

WADEPS

Be aware of efforts underway as agencies are told to sign up for WADEPS (the State data use of force initiative operated by WA State University). Some Chiefs and Sheriffs have been concerned that notices of Acadis training were sent from WADEPS prior to the executives being able to communicate internally, creating a level of confusion. This concern has been raised to program managers.

WASPC Pres. Sheriff John Nowels has appointed Kennewick Chief Chris Guerreo, Issaquah Chief Paula Schwan, and Kittitas County Sheriff's Office Chief Chris Whitsett to a data use group that will communicate with the Attorney General's Office and other stakeholders to get rapid feedback and address questions and concerns. One agency has raised questions about PIT technique vis a vis use of force classifications for Pursuit Intervention Techniques (higher speed vs lower speed), and others have raised issues with the aggressive timelines and requirements to be fully automated within 3 years, the unilateral allowance for WSU to modify the agreement in the future, and other problems. It is notable that the issue with PIT classification has already received feedback and potential changes from WADEPS to further provide context for the data. The WASPC Legal Advisors group also continues to work through the data use agreements.

This past week

Prior to coming to Washington in 2006, I served twenty years as an officer in Minnesota, and also one term as a Minnesota State Representative. The person who was shot and killed in that state along with her husband Saturday, former MN House Speaker Melissa Hortman, was elected just as I left the legislature. I didn't know her well but met her briefly and she had a great reputation. It is surreal and tragic to think that a person who served in that same chamber, sitting at the same desks, was murdered because she was an elected official.

Strong political opinions have been around for a long time and have been very intense before. However, social media and the amplification of the most extreme voices have put this intensity on steroids and minimizes the voices of most people who are not at the extremes. We need to recognize that, and realize that your teams, as people who support and ensure public safety, are protecting the rights (and in some cases the lives) of those at all points on that political spectrum.

[Here](#) is an example of how one law enforcement officer's judgment and decision-making led to an interruption of what could have been a much longer spree of murders and attempted murders. Officers in that state and in our own (as they diligently continue to seek justice in the ongoing search for the person who murdered three young girls in Wenatchee) reflect what this profession is all about. It's why you do your jobs, and it's why your team stays committed to it every day.

Take care of yourselves- thank you for what you do – stay safe- Steve