



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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City of Wenatchee

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Steven D. Strachan  
Executive Director

**July 5, 2022**

**Greetings from your Executive Director:**

Just a few updates this week:

I want to update you on a significant development regarding CJTC. Last week I spoke with CJTC Executive Director Alexander and Sen. John Lovick about the challenges of one centralized training academy. CJTC has also experienced difficulties finding TACS (instructors) who are interested in leaving their families for long periods of time to teach in Burien. WASPC has long been supportive of options for regional training and to make training easier for those outside the I-5 corridor, as well as the need to increase capacity. Senator Lovick proposes to fund regionalized CJTC BLEA training beyond Burien, to include both the present training location at Spokane and also other sites, possibly Tri Cities, Vancouver and/or Bellingham, or other areas.

Sen. Lovick intends to move this idea quickly, and has been working with Director Alexander who is fully supportive. Our WASPC Board has indicated strong support of this change. This would assist in:

- Recruitment, as trainees would have easier and less impactful travel and time commitments away during training,
- Providing for more capacity as agencies (ideally) increase hiring and training in the next several years,
- Getting TACS (from outside the King County region) as the shorter distance would reduce time commitments and family impacts, and
- Providing greater flexibility for scheduling and logistics.

We will keep you in the loop as this moves forward.

The Attorney General's Office released their [model use-of-force policy](#) Friday as required by law issue the [model policy](#) by July 1. We can now begin to review this final product. Many thanks to all of you who provided feedback and input to their office on this important issue prior to its release.

This past week the [sponsors of the initiative to legalize all drugs in our state](#) have sent out messages apparently calling off their signature gathering, and are saying they will instead focus on moving the idea legislatively. Many legislators had previously indicated that they would not need to deal with the Blake response because the initiative would force the issue, but now it appears that will not happen and the legislature will actually have to decide. This points to the importance of [making sure your legislators understand the effects of the Blake decision on our communities](#), and of providing for incentivized treatment to get people healthy and off the streets, along with real commitments for the infrastructure to get people into treatment. This message is an important one for Sheriffs and Chiefs. Simply making all drugs legal is clearly not working.

Our Leadership Training Program is continuing to see agencies signing up, and please take advantage of the opportunity to build a leadership legacy in your organization by participating in our ICLD online Leadership Training Program. You can get more information by clicking here [www.waspc.org/leadership-training](http://www.waspc.org/leadership-training) and signing up.

Poulsbo Chief Ron Harding, who represents WASPC on the Crisis Response Improvement Strategy Committee (CRIS), sent along this [one-page document](#) regarding the upcoming “soft implementation” of the 988 system, for your information.

At our last WASPC conference, Bob Scales was one of our presenters, along with the Spokane Ombudsman, who talked about the use of data and working with community oversight. [Here](#) is a recent column by Mr. Scales, on data and how it being used and often misused. The issues raised are also consistent with [WASPC’s Principles of Community Trust](#), originally adopted back in 2019, which said, in part, *“WASPC acknowledges that implicit and institutional bias and discrimination exist in all aspects of society: criminal justice, education, housing, health care, finance, and more. We will work in concert with policy makers and others to make systemic improvements to understand, reduce and control the implicit and institutional biases and barriers that inhibit every person’s success. Reform in the criminal justice system should be based on public safety outcomes and should not ignore concern for law enforcement, victims of crime, and justice.”*

Too many of the changes we are seeing in the past two years ignore concerns for law enforcement, victims of crime, and justice.

[Thanks for all you do-](#) Have a safe week- Steve

**Steven D. Strachan, Executive Director**  
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