



Washington Association of  
**SHERIFFS &  
POLICE CHIEFS**

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**April 18, 2024**

**Greetings from your Executive Director:**

Here are a few updates this week:

First, many cities and counties around our state have either adopted or are considering ordinances regarding overnight camping and other efforts focused on dealing with tents and encampments. The US Supreme Court is scheduled to hear arguments in the Grant's Pass Oregon v. Johnson case in which we provided an [amicus brief](#) on April 22. Also, as a resource here are two ordinances from the [City of Kent](#) and the [City of Marysville](#) regarding this issue, with the caveat that any changes coming from a possible Supreme Court ruling may change these, so ensure your legal counsel is aware of that potential upcoming change which could reduce restrictions and onerous requirements for some of these ordinances.

This week, the Washington State Auditor's Office (SAO) released a [report](#) on civil asset forfeitures. This area has been a concern for advocates and activist groups for some time. [The Seattle Times](#) did a story on it already, and we will be responding to the audit report and have some significant concerns with their methodology and findings. Be aware of the report and I encourage you to communicate with your legislators about what you are doing in this area to increase awareness of why law enforcement seizes assets and how the funds are used.

[Here](#) is a program that highlights the recent law change to allow Sheriffs and Chiefs to hire DACA recipients (or "Dreamers") if that is right for your community, and to also allow for optional additional preference points for civil service rules that incentivize candidates for fluency in a second language, certain work experience, and college, all at the option of the agency executive.

[Here](#) is a graph of auto theft trends from 2019 through March of 2024. You can see that while monthly numbers have declined over the last several months, they are still higher than pre-pandemic, and even the first several months of the pandemic itself. As we move toward the upcoming change in pursuit law in June, we continue to communicate that agencies will be making their own policy decisions, and a change to the environment of emboldened criminality will take time. Also, [here](#) is a story about the upcoming law change and our continued advocacy for more consequences for those who choose to flee,

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including greater sentences, more mandatory supervision, and greater use of technology. This week the State Commerce Dept sent out a [request for proposals](#) for technology related to reducing pursuits.

[Here](#) is a good article about police staffing. As you know, politicians on both sides of the aisle are now expressing strong support for more funding for more officers, deputies and troopers. The article illustrates that even with the good work being done to expand capacity for new officer training, we need the legislature to step up with additional funding for law enforcement. It's not just "more cops", it is good for prevention of crime, justice for victims, and wellness for officers. It creates well-being for those doing the job and for the community. We are 51st (last!) in the nation for the 14th straight year and it is getting worse, not better. We appreciate Crosscut bringing light to this important issue.

As we come up to the WASPC Spring conference in May, there are three Board positions up for election by the general membership:

- Vice President: This is the position that goes into an “automatic” mode and the person elected will become President-Elect, President, and Past President in subsequent years. Per our bylaws, this must alternate each year between a Sheriff and a Chief. Current WASPC Board Member Kent Chief Rafael Padilla has indicated he wishes to stand for this position.
- Chief-At-Large: Currently held by Edmonds Chief Michelle Bennett
- Sheriff-At-Large: Currently held by Franklin Co. Sheriff James Raymond
- Chief from a non-municipal agency: Lower Elwa Klallam Chief Sam White

Chief Bennett, Sheriff Raymond, and Chief White have all expressed that they wish to continue to serve and will stand for election at the May conference.

If you wish to be considered for any of these positions and qualify per our bylaws please let us know and we can let members know of your interest. Note also that if members choose to elect current Board member Padilla as Vice President, his Chief-at-Large board position would become vacant and be filled by appointment by the 2024-2025 WASPC President, Redmond Chief Darrell Lowe.

Any questions? Let me know- and thanks to each of our board members for being willing to serve!

Taylor Gardner of WASPC helped to coordinate the first Legal Advisors Group virtual meeting last week, which was well attended and worthwhile. The next meeting is already being scheduled- if your legal advisor is not involved, and would like to be, contact Taylor at [taylor@waspc.org](mailto:taylor@waspc.org)

Finally, this week, here is a great example of what your teams are doing out there every day. In Kitsap County, the court had ordered a little boy removed from the custody of his troubled mother, who later

abducted him while he was sleeping at his grandparent's house. She had told others that she wanted to harm the boy and herself. An Amber Alert was issued, and Kitsap Co. Deputy Josh Buonvino, while off-duty, saw the mother and vehicle. This is the body camera [footage](#) as the mother tries to drive away. The Deputy ensures she will not leave, and calmly and compassionately ensures the safety of the little boy. The little boy is safe today- well done Dep. Buonvino and the Kitsap Co. Sheriff's Office!

Thanks for all you do and stay safe- Steve