



Washington Association of

# SHERIFFS & POLICE CHIEFS

3060 Willamette Drive NE

Lacey, WA 98516

360-486-2380 (Phone)

360-486-2381 (Fax)

[www.waspc.org](http://www.waspc.org)

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January 15, 2026

**Attribution:**

The Honorable John Nowels  
Sheriff, Spokane County  
President, Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs

Steven D. Strachan  
Executive Director  
Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs

### **STATEMENT ON SHERIFF KEITH SWANK'S COMMENTS**

(Lacey, WA) --- The Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) has grave concerns with SB 5974. However, the inflammatory comments made by Pierce County Sheriff Keith Swank at a legislative committee hearing on January 15 do not represent the views or the approach of WASPC. The scope of his testimony went beyond reasonable dialogue and devolved into what could be perceived as threatening to legislators and he challenged their constitutional authority. The manner in which he conducted himself was not in line with the professional behavior we expect of members. We know that all public servants are subject to their oaths of office and the rule of law.

WASPC intends to initiate proceedings as required by our bylaws for the board to consider expulsion of Sheriff Swank from WASPC. Washington's law enforcement leaders want to collaborate with our partners in the legislature. The leaders of Washington's law enforcement agencies stand ready to work with everyone in a way that builds and preserves public trust.

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