

April 6, 2018

Greetings From Your Executive Director

Just a few quick updates this week:

First, we continue to work on the issue of the **removal of Social Security #s from DOL records**. I did an interview with Fox News this week and we will continue to keep this issue on the front burner. You can help me in this effort if you have any examples of how the loss of Social Security info is affecting your operation and your officer's/deputy's/records staff's ability to do their jobs. In addition to the loss of information to positively identify people on the street, I am also hearing that it makes it harder to positively identify persons to approve or deny concealed pistol licenses and firearms transfers. If there are any specific examples, this will help us to press the issue and hopefully get some change in the policy. Please let me know.

Remember that this change was due to the ongoing dispute between the Federal and State policies on immigration enforcement. Here is a link to another example, where enforcement of a driving law is again placing law enforcement in the middle of this political issue.

<http://kuow.org/post/if-firefighter-lived-seattle-his-traffic-stop-wouldnt-have-ended-ice-custody>

It all comes down to the fact that each of our members continues to try to provide public safety and increase trust in our communities, and we are being placed in an unreasonable position. We need to continue to communicate that we are not choosing sides, we just want to do our jobs and not be in this “gotcha” political environment. I have attached a document from WSP about how to better distinguish between criminal and administrative civil warrants from ICE, if that is helpful and consistent with your individual department policies. We will keep working on getting our departments the tools you need and send the message that law enforcement needs to stop being placed in the middle—it's not good for public safety and it's not good for enhancing trust in our communities.

I have also attached the most current data just released from the FBI on **Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted (LEOKA)**. The bottom line is that so far this year, officers killed in accidents are down but officers killed feloniously are up—way up.

Finally, the Criminal Justice Training Commission (CJTC) will be starting its rulemaking process which is a required part of the changes from I-940/HB 3003. A major part of the law change is that **independent investigations will be required by law for incidents of officer involved shootings**. What defines and constitutes an independent investigation will be part of that rulemaking. During our May conference, we will have a panel and discussion on the new law, and will have representatives of CJTC there to receive input and questions about any concerns or issues you may have- so this is a heads-up that we will have that discussion and to start thinking about what is important to us.

Here is an important point, however. The new law (barring a change from the Eyman lawsuit) goes into effect in June, and the new rules will not be made until later in the year. This means that state law will require that we have independent investigations if there is an officer-involved shooting prior to there being any specific rules in place. If your department does not have a system to conduct independent investigations, you will need to think about how to follow that law prior to the new rules being

made. This is also true of the duty to render first aid. I know this seems backward, because it is-- but be aware of it.

As always, we will keep you in the loop. This past week, Policy Director James McMahan and I joined the King County Coalition of Small Police Agencies to discuss a legislative update and answer questions - next week I will be in Clallam County meeting with Sheriff Benedict and the Olympic Peninsula law enforcement group. If you would ever want James and/or myself to come to your joint meetings to provide input and (more importantly) for us to hear from you, just let us know!

Have a great weekend!

Work Hard- Have Fun- Stay Safe

Steve

Steven D. Strachan, Executive Director

Washington Association of Sheriffs & Police Chiefs

3060 Willamette Drive NE

Lacey, WA 98516

steve@waspc.org

360-486-2380

Executive Assistant: Deb Gregory

dgregory@waspc.org