

# WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF SHERIFFS & POLICE CHIEFS

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Serving the Law Enforcement Community and the Citizens of Washington



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**As an example of how difficult these issues can be, I just want to clarify that the first paragraph about the environment of polarization is not at all intended as a criticism of the Attorney General- far from it, it's a comment on the entire environment nationally and how important public safety topics can get subsumed into the big overall debate. That is about every side, and again is not aimed at all at our AG. If it was received or perceived that way I want to clarify that- thanks and have a good weekend- Steve**

**P.S. Every time I think I'm a good communicator, I am reminded that sometimes I am not...**

Greetings from Your Executive Director:

This week the WA Attorney General sued, along with other states, over an administrative decision at the federal level to allow **3D printed gun** programming to be sold or accessed via the internet. Some of our members have taken public positions in support of the lawsuit, and a federal Judge did issue an injunction for now. One of my observations about this issue is that despite any policy concerns about the possibility of making 3D guns potentially more available (with no metal to detect and no serial numbers to track), it quickly became politicized and about one side vs. the other, drawn into the same Pro- Trump/Anti-Trump debate. It is difficult for us, as an association supporting good public safety policy, to keep any thoughtful discussion about a public safety issue out of that national vortex that is all about fundraising, generating outrage, and raising the profile of people on social media who want attention. I don't have a solution to it, but the dynamic continues to put us in the middle.

Many of you attended the **memorial service for Officer Diego Moreno** at Showare Center in Kent earlier this week. Chief Padilla and his team did a tremendous job of coordinating the logistics and the service was amazing. Kudos to KOMO TV for carrying the service in its entirety live. The community and first responders came out to remember a great officer, and an even better person and family man.

On a related note, the tragic death of an officer in the line of duty was seen as an opportunity to pander and look for political advantage by a challenger for King County Prosecutor. He has criticized the decision to charge the 16 year old, who shot up a parking lot and fled from police, with murder in this case. He repeatedly calls the suspect "a child" who made some "tragic choices", and calls for "restorative justice" instead of being charged in adult court.

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This is another example of using loaded language to depict the suspect in a more positive light, and is consistent with the recurring theme of “police are really the suspects, and suspects are really the victims”. I have been trained and have led restorative justice processes, and have been involved in juvenile justice issues my entire career. Juvenile justice reform is a worthy and important subject for thoughtful discussion, and restorative justice is a good thing in some instances-- but not in this instance. Allegedly firing a gun 39 times and fleeing from police at high speeds is not conducive to restorative justice, its conducive to murder charges and prison. We cannot, and should not, water down the responsibility of the suspect whose actions caused the death of a police officer.

I had a question this week about Byrne grants and their status in terms of ongoing lawsuits between various states and the DOJ. There was some resolution to the Chicago lawsuit which had resulted in the suspension of 2017 grants, but now there is a new wrinkle- there have apparently been added requirements from the DOJ about reporting and cooperation with ICE for the 2018 grants that many states and jurisdictions are finding problematic. There are more lawsuits, including from our Attorney General. So, the result as of now is that no grants have been awarded to any state. DOJ sent out the award notifications a couple of weeks ago and the states have until Aug 10th to respond by either accepting or rejecting the award. There has been a lawsuit filed and the attorneys are seeking to have the funds held during the case. This means that if the case is not decided prior to August 10th, the funds which would have been released after that date will not be released.

In addition, for grants going directly to local jurisdictions (counties or cities) you would need to determine if any new DOJ requirements are acceptable. The City of New York is apparently suing over this issue, and are asking if any of our local jurisdictions wish to provide them information and/or join their lawsuit, which may result in resolution for the local jurisdiction with NYC taking lead. If you do, let us know and we will send the contact information.

Bottom line? It’s all up in the air.

Finally this week, here is a really good story about body cameras capturing a **Spokane Police Officer performing lifesaving CPR** for a child--

<https://www.kxly.com/news/body-camera-video-shows-spokane-police-officer-saving-child/776546070>

Have a great weekend—

***Work Hard- Have Fun- Stay Safe***

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