

WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF SHERIFFS & POLICE CHIEFS

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Serving the Law Enforcement Community and the Citizens of Washington



August 17, 2018

Greetings from your Executive Director:

First this week, you may have seen in the news this morning that the State has reached a **tentative agreement on the “Trueblood” case** which required Washington to provide more resources for people with mental illness in the criminal justice system. Our Jail Services Liaison, Ned Newlin, has sent along the two attachments with the [press release](#) as well as the [agreement](#), which still needs to be approved by the Federal Judge. WASPC is mentioned in the agreement as the administrator of the mental health field response program, which has been a legislative priority for us and was funded to \$1 million for this budget year. The agreement refers to the state working to make that \$3 million next year, but this is a commitment to working on it, not an actual commitment which can only come from the legislature. So, it’s not a guarantee of an increase for mental health field response but it is good news that the concept is specifically noted in the plans.

Speaking of the mental health field response grants, we want to offer our gratitude to the applicants to the program this year, as well as the Chiefs, Sheriffs and mental health professionals who formed the panel to evaluate the applications. Letters went out this week with their recommendations and awards. We will keep you in the loop on feedback and successes from these programs.

In order to facilitate information gathering and reduce paperwork, the grants included the **“Ride Along” software program** that provides information about mental health contacts, which has been piloted by a few departments around the state with good success. Here is a link to a story about the software:

<http://www.govtech.com/biz/One-Company-Saw-a-Sharp-Drop-in-Calls-for-911-Frequent-Flyers--By-Sharing-Information.html>

We are still awaiting the **Supreme Court decision on the I-940 appeal**. There are some deadlines from the Secretary of State in late August for printing if an initiative is required, so we expect a decision in the next few weeks. As soon as we hear either way, we will let you know where it is going. If you have any questions or need any information just let me know.

I have been going out to attend some **regional Chiefs and Sheriffs meetings** around the state the last few weeks, and really appreciate your welcoming me and the great feedback and input I have gotten to help me represent you better. In addition, our Policy Director, James McMahan, has

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been facilitating the ongoing Mass Shootings Work Group meetings, including a meeting this week in Spokane. The group is getting into recommendations, so if you have an opinion or any input please let us know.

I have attached a portion of a wallet card that was posted this week by the ACLU of Washington. The wallet card is entitled “**Know Your Rights When Stopped by the Police**”, and as you would expect includes suggestions to ask if you can leave, give no statement, and to record everything. However, I also found the attached portion to be very interesting- it is headlined “Tips for Safety”. This is the advice from the ACLU:



This is a great list to truly **reduce situations where law enforcement must use force or where risky and dangerous situations lead to injuries and deaths**. As we talk about de-escalation, better training, and all the things we in law enforcement can do to reduce uses of force and the incidents that become “viral” and drive public opinion, this list can, and should, provide the basis for a wide-ranging public education effort. This would likely have an even greater effect on safety for everyone, including suspects, bystanders, and law enforcement. Think about it- **don’t run, keep your hands visible, never touch the officer, and follow instructions**--- unbelievably important and concepts we do not talk about enough. Along with **rights**, these **responsibilities** should be part of the conversation.

In this environment of the outrage culture and encouraging more division, this is a very important area where the ACLU and law enforcement totally agree. If the media, and social media, devoted as much energy to reinforcing this message of “Tips for Safety” as we do to polarizing

hashtags and sensational stories designed to get “clicks”, I predict there would be a lot fewer injuries and deaths. Here is the link to the entire wallet card for your info:

<https://www.aclu-wa.org/docs/wallet-card-know-your-rights-when-stopped-police>



Finally, Hoquiam Chief Jeff Myers sent me this photo he took this week at the **Chief for a Day** event at Burien. When one of the young Chiefs, serving as Tacoma Chief for the day, had his attention wander a little and ended up on the floor during the event, King County Sheriff Mitzi Johanknecht got down on the floor to spend some quality time with him. This epitomizes both the event, which is all about a special day for these kids, as well as the humility and honor of our profession

and those who serve as Sheriffs and Chiefs in our state. It is truly my privilege to serve all of you---

Work Hard- Have Fun- Stay Safe

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