



Washington Association of
**SHERIFFS &
POLICE CHIEFS**

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Greetings from your Executive Director:

Hope you are enjoying the beginnings of summer- here are a few updates on what's going on in our world:

First, a few updates on everyone's favorite topic, **Firearms Changes related to 1639 and NICS**, also known as the "records division train wreck" coming toward us July 1. As we have been saying all along, WASPC does not have any direct authority in this but we want to do all we can to provide information and answers (where there are answers, that is) to serve all of you. We sent out the 2-page overview a few weeks ago, and there has been a few developments that you and your team should be aware of-

First, the 2-page document we sent out a few weeks ago said that **"Other" (frames and receivers etc.)** need to have a full background check, just like a pistol, from local law enforcement starting July 1. Previously the FFL did a NICS check only. After much discussion, **NICS is now saying they will continue to do the NICS check on "other" until July 1, 2020** so the legislature can iron that out. I have attached a document [sent by NICS](#) to FFLS saying that, and you and your records staff may want to be aware of all of the information that NICS is sending to FFLs. On the issue of background checks on "other", note that this is the NICS opinion only, and I would again encourage you to check in with your legal counsel- they may have a different take, and follow their lead. We have attached an updated 2-page "Firearms Changes" (it says V2 in the upper right hand corner), reflecting those changes. Please replace any of the old "cheat sheets" with this [new one](#).

Second, the Attorney General has **updated the Frequently Asked Questions** portion of their website, particularly as it pertains to documentation of training- check out the answer which clarifies whether the Chief or Sheriff needs to independently certify the training (spoiler alert, the answer is no). Here is the updated [FAQ Link](#).

We will continue to get you any information we receive and we appreciate everyone's willingness to share updates and questions so we can try to get answers-- remember, however, that there are areas that simply do not have clear answers yet, and will not until the courts, state agencies, or the legislature clarify them-- particularly the process of the annual "look back" and how that would be conducted.

John McGrath from our office is working with the review panel to get solicitations out for renewals and applications for the **mental health field response grants**- this is driven as you know, in large part by state budgetary timeframes and I know it creates pressure for your staff and practitioners out there doing the job -- here is a good [article](#) this week on Chief Smith and the Port Angeles program:

Here is a link to a [news story](#) that is an interesting example of how body cameras can show what really happened, particularly when someone believes that they will never be seen being self-important and rude. It is notable here how courteous and patient the officers are to everyone, never taking offense and always being professional-- pretty much like officers and deputies are every day.

Finally, many of you know this has been another tough week for law enforcement-- as politicians continue to kick around ICE and the FBI for their own political gain, we have seen five officers and

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deputies murdered in ambushes and so-called "routine" calls, which have received little or no national attention. When Officer Langsdorf in Missouri was murdered in cold blood while on a routine "bad check" call, the most important thing the clerk could think to do was take out their phone and livestream the dying officer on Facebook.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2019/06/25/michael-langsdorf-wellston-police-shooting-facebook-live-stream>

<https://wtkr.com/2019/06/26/boy-saved-by-fallen-missouri-officer-shares-memory-gratitude/>

<https://abcnews.go.com/US/illinois-sheriffs-deputy-5th-officer-fatally-shot-days/story?id=63953041>

People like to think these are solitary or extraordinary events, but unfortunately they are not. When I served in Bremerton, we had a lone officer taking a "routine" call at a strip mall parking lot when the subject, with severe untreated mental health issues, suddenly and violently attacked the officer. As the subject straddled the officer, ripping off his radio and going for his gun while continuously trying to punch him in the face, one single person ran across the parking lot to help the officer. Two people in the nearby store felt it was far more important to record it on their cell phones. We have socialized too many people into becoming voyeurs, critics and commentators, not focusing on doing the right thing. It is also likely that many of us have not even heard of these murders of law enforcement murders, because the mainstream media and social media give them little attention- they don't fit the narrative.

The good news? We have to remember that every [poll](#) out there shows that law enforcement remains one of the most respected professions.

A few of the news stories, though too rare, go to the trouble of discussing the actual people who serve in law enforcement as human beings-- we are husbands and wives, sons and daughters, fathers and mothers. We need to continue to emphasize that we are here to protect all rights, bring justice to victims, and that we do not engage in the outrage, clickbait culture.

Thanks for all you do- have a great weekend---

Work Hard- Have Fun- Stay Safe

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