



Washington Association of
**SHERIFFS &
POLICE CHIEFS**

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Greetings from Your Executive Director:

I know summer is supposed to be the time of year when we slow down but that doesn't seem to be happening-so here is another action-packed update for you...

First, the "Statutory Stakeholders" meetings continue for the **rulemaking to be adopted by the Criminal Justice Training Commission (CJTC)** regarding Outside Independent Investigations of Officer Involved Shootings, as required by I-940. The group is still looking at what other areas are doing and the current state of investigations in this state. There was some discussion of the process in jurisdictions like New York (the Attorney General's Office has an investigative unit), Wisconsin (requiring that the leadership of a multi-agency team not be from the involved agency) and Ontario (a provincial civilian-led investigative unit), as well as models from around Washington State.

Along with our law enforcement labor partners, we have made clear that while we are open to exploring different models, we do not have the same state systems here as on the east coast, and that increasing or maintaining a high level of trust and credibility of investigations need to be mindful of both the community and law enforcement. If any system resulting from these changes decreases law enforcement officers' trust in the quality and fairness of the process, we will likely see more refusals to give statements and this would potentially decrease community/police relationships over time, so we need to get it right and be balanced.

A critical element of prospective changes has centered on the clear desire from community groups that the families of those involved in shootings receive regular communication and information. Many regional investigative units have already taken a step in that direction with protocols that assign a "family liaison" for this purpose, and the results have been positive.

Next steps are community feedback meetings, which will be planned and led by community groups, not the CJTC, however they will attend and provide information. I will keep you in the loop on these meetings, and they will be posted on the CJTC website. I will advise as this progresses if Sheriffs or Chiefs wish to attend these community meetings.

This week we issued this [news release](#) for the **2018 Crime in Washington report**. In the past, we have sent this out with no accompanying release, and individual departments, of course, use the data as you see fit. However, in terms of statewide data, it seems like it was only used by realty websites to do those useless "Ten Most Dangerous Cities" reports in order to get some attention and clicks. So this year we highlighted some of the most notable trends, including significant increases in violent crime, year-over-year increases in assaults of officers, and the large number of arrestees who were carrying firearms at the time of arrest. In addition, the main

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report also clearly explains that Hate Crime statistics are based on a) actual incidents occurring, b) training, awareness and policies to recognize and prioritize these types of crime, and c) community trust in law enforcement that these will be investigated and recognized. So, increases can reflect, in part, positive enhancements in the relationship between law enforcement and the community.

Now that the **regulations related to I-1639** have gone into effect, we received an anecdote this week from Chief Dan Templeman at Everett PD-- it highlights some of the unusual decisions and outcomes that I know all of our local law enforcement agencies are seeing:

Steve- FYI...just thought I would share an interesting experience we ran into during the first week of I-1639...

An under 21 subject had previously placed a semi-automatic rifle on loan with a local pawn shop. The owner went back to the pawn shop after July 1 to redeem the loan and get the firearm back. The pawn shop called to ask us if they could legally return the firearm.

The answer is no. While the under 21 owner can possess the firearm in certain situations (at home, place of business) and is only prohibited from purchasing, and while redemption is not a purchase per se, under the same law the pawn shop is prohibited from selling or transferring. The redemption does count as a transfer, so they cannot release the firearm to the under age 21 owner.

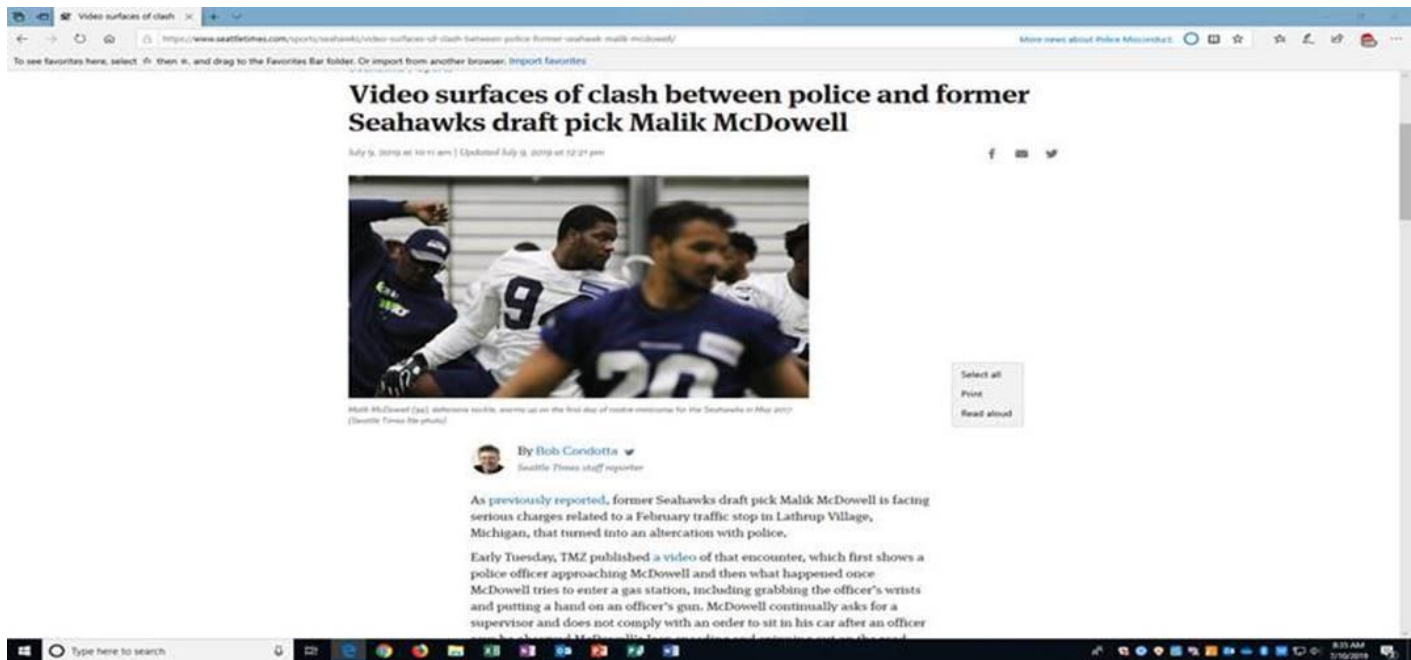
We told them to suggest the owner contact an attorney for legal advice, but reinforced they could not make the transfer to anyone under age 21 after July 1.

Las Vegas PD released their public after-action report on the Mandalay Bay incident -- here is a [link](#) if you are interested:

Some of you may have seen this, but video was released this week of a **Michigan law enforcement officer arresting former Seahawk draft pick** Malik McDowell. McDowell turned out to be driving at a .18 alcohol content. Here is the [video](#) and if you take the time to watch it, you may note the extraordinary way the officer consistently de-escalates, communicates, and makes critical split-second decisions:

The Seattle Times covered this as sports story, written by a sports reporter. Their headline read "Video Surfaces of Clash Between Police and Former Seahawks Draft Pick". Does "clash" describe this incident? That makes it sound like a bar fight between patrons. This could have been described as "Police officer safely makes arrest after being assaulted by former Seahawk draft pick".

Finally, here is a screen shot of that story- and in the upper right hand corner, there is a helpful icon the reader can click for "More News About Police Misconduct". Yep- the algorithms built by Bing in this instance default to "police misconduct."



Trying to pay attention to public safety and protect everyone's rights in this environment is challenging, is it not?

I want to give you an update about **SECTOR**, the traffic program that is undergoing some review for possible replacement. Before you think "oh that's a technology/IT thing" and skip this or go to your happy place, I have a potentially important message in here that you should be aware of. Basically, the Traffic Safety Commission, WSP and others have been looking at replacing the outdated SECTOR system. Our Traffic Safety Chairs, Chief Steve Crown and Sheriff Rob Snaza, have also been involved in this. Here's the deal- there is a program for reports and forms and centralizing all of these records called the "National Model" which several states already use. Here's what you really need to know- first, it is likely (not for sure, but likely) that this will be implemented as the state's replacement for SECTOR. Second, this "National Model" also allows you to attach to it to be used as your records management system. This would not be mandatory, but it would be an option to take the place of any current RMS. So-- if you are looking at spending lots of money or a new or upgraded RMS system, I would advise you to reach out to me or someone on that work group to find out more about this potential new option before you spend a lot of money.

So- in that environment and with all the divisive rhetoric, here are a few great examples of departments in our state doing great work--- first here is a [story in Crosscut](#) about Renton and their community outreach, led by Chief Ed Van Valey.

In Bellingham, Chief Dave Doll has led the [implementation](#) of AED's in all of their patrol vehicles:

Have a great week, and thanks for all you do!

Work Hard- Have Fun- Stay Safe

Steve

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