



November 8, 2019

Greetings from Your Executive Director:

Of course, foremost in our mind this week is the tragic line-of-duty death of **Lynden Chief Mike Knapp**. Here is a [link](#) to the Officer Down memorial page.

With his permission, I am sending you this thoughtful and heartfelt message that Bellingham Police Chief David Doll sent out to his department following Chief Knapp's passing:

Lynden Police Chief Michael Knapp

It is always difficult to talk about how a person was, because it is an acknowledgement that they are no longer here.



Chief Mike Knapp

Without hesitation, I will say that Michael Knapp was the quintessential police chief. He was a transformational leader and a staunch advocate for the rule of law.

As a transformational leader, Knapp literally transformed the organizations he touched. While I know little about his time as Chief in Medina, we all witnessed the physical transformation of the Ferndale Police Department when he led that organization. I refer to the Ferndale Police Department as the house that Mike built. After eleven years there he decided to retire – but transformational leaders do not retire. They cannot because it is in their DNA to serve. So, he began transforming Blaine PD, when he was interim chief there and was working on Lynden PD, as interim Chief, at the time of his death. And this was all after a career with the FBI.

If given enough time, I believe Mike was set on serving as Chief of every LE organization in Whatcom County!!

As a transformational leader, Mike's behaviors and actions were beyond reproach. He was gracious, professional and served with the utmost integrity and poise. Mike greeted everyone with a firm handshake (and it always hurt, and he always grinned as a result), focused attention (he never looked over your shoulder to see who was coming next) and a compliment (he left you believing you were the best in the field). All of this resulted in a professional behavior that motivated you to do the same – It motivated you to raise your level of professionalism - and that is transformational leadership.

At this moment, I have no doubt that Mike is surveying Heaven to see what improvements need to be made and will get on it in preparation for when we all will see him again.

- David Doll, Police Chief, Bellingham Police Department

On behalf of all of us in the profession, we want to pass along special thanks for Whatcom County area law enforcement and public safety agencies, Behind the Badge, and Seattle PD's Hospital Response Team (after Chief Knapp was taken to Harborview) for all they do. We will pass along any appropriate information about services once we get it.

On a separate topic, congratulations to Washougal's new Chief of Police, **Wendi Steinbronn**. Chief Steinbronn comes from Portland PD, where she has been a Commander. Here is the [press release](#) from the city, and we were honored to be part of the executive search for this process.

Here is the latest information on the [proposed CJTC rules for independent investigations](#)- they have not changed this is just the Code Revisor's official posting.

This is the document that the Criminal Justice Training Commission (CJTC) will be discussing at the Special Commission meeting at the Academy in Burien on **Nov. 26th at 10:00**. The Commission will take public testimony about this draft then they will discuss recommended edits. As previously mentioned, the edits cannot introduce new topics or substantially change the content of the draft. Once the Commission has heard testimony and discussed the draft, CJTC staff will incorporate their comments into a final draft that the Commission will vote to adopt on **December 5th at 10:00** at the Academy. CJTC will continue to accept input and ideas at their website until the November 26th Special Meeting. They will not be able to take further input after that meeting.

On behalf of WASPC, we have provided feedback to CJTC that the rules raise many concerns, but we do continue to appreciate the balance the CJTC is trying to strike between the concerns and implementation challenges of law enforcement, and the strong opinions and recommendations of community stakeholder. Many of the concerns have centered around the recognition that the training and review requirements for OIS investigators may be too onerous for smaller jurisdictions, or any of these outside the I-5 corridor.

In addition, it is important to point out that a preliminary review of the rules does indicate that the Sheriff or Chief can still conduct an administrative investigation as they so choose, either concurrent with our following the independent OIS. Also, any criminal investigation of the incident itself and any crime committed by the subject can also be conducted by the department itself. The independent requirement is only for determining whether the use of deadly force by the law enforcement officer was in conformity with state law.

The rules also allow a Chief or Sheriff to release body cam or other video, at their discretion.

Again, CJTC will be conducting a panel at the Chelan conference on this topic, and both CJTC staff and some CJTC Commissioners will be present to receive input from our members.

On a related note, congratulations go out to **Sheriff Rob Snaza**, who has been appointed by the Governor to the CJTC.

Finally, many of you may have seen this but here is a [link](#) to a **Utah State Trooper** getting an unconscious driver out of a vehicle just before a train hits the car. It looks like a movie but it is real life.

And in this [story](#) from KOMO, a Cosmopolis PD Officer acts quickly and decisively to save the life of a woman about to jump from the Chehalis River Bridge.

A great reminder of the extraordinary work law enforcement does every day.

Have a good weekend-

Work Hard- Have Fun- Stay Safe

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