



Washington Association of
**SHERIFFS &
POLICE CHIEFS**

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Greetings from your Executive Director:

Just a few updates for you early this week- first some of you may have seen some news about **bail reform** in other areas- there are no specific bills yet this session about this issue (other than one that reduces of severity of bail-jumping), but the topic is front and center around the country for those advocating for criminal justice reform. The problem statement tends to be that the current system punishes those with less money and results in incarceration without due process for people who cannot afford to bail out. The concept is worthy of consideration, but the problem in many jurisdictions has been the details.

New laws elsewhere have ranged from prohibiting or restricting judges from requiring bail, to algorithms that evaluate risk to the public and likelihood of not appearing. California has gone to an algorithm-based system that the ACLU ended up opposing because it impacted people of color in ways they viewed as unfair. And there are many other systems and proposals.

The bottom line is that like so many ideas surrounding criminal-justice reform, we always need to focus on what it really looks like. We all know there are a lot of "that sounds like a good idea" proposals with unintended consequences and that result too often in saving a few bucks for the state, while being bad for public safety. Here are a few articles that clearly illustrate the point:

First, San Francisco elected a new prosecutor (whose parents, by the way, were convicted and imprisoned for being members of the Weather Underground and murdering police officers), has gone beyond California state's requirements- and ended cash bail for all criminal cases. Read [here](#).

Here are two articles highlighting the problems with New York's major changes in bail requirements and the effects in New York City:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/01/23/opinion/shea-nypd-bail-reform.html>

[NYPD commissioner links crime spike to bail reform - says judges must be able to hold repeat offenders](#)

This past weekend we sent out a GTWO on the sad news that former **Yakima County Sheriff Brian Winter has passed away after a courageous battle with ALS**. Sheriff Winter was a longtime active member of both WASPC, as our Treasurer and Board member, and the Washington State Sheriffs Association. He was also a good friend to many, and a great Sheriff. He will be missed but as Yakima County Sheriff Bob Udell said so eloquently, he is at rest. We do not have memorial arrangements as yet but will pass them on as soon as we get them.

As is the case in so many families, too many of our departments have seen our officers, deputies or troopers take their own lives. On January 14th, **Hoquiam PD went through this difficult time as**

Officer Phil High, who went by "PH", took his life at his home in Ocean Shores. Hoquiam Chief Jeff Myers has asked for us to pass along memorial information, as well as this information:

In talking to PH's family, it is now important to celebrate his life and dedication as a peace officer in this community and the other communities he has served. Officer High was also an Army Veteran, so his time in uniform in service to his country was long.

A memorial service to honor Officer Phil High has been set at the Ocean Shores Convention Center on Saturday, February 1, 2020 at 1:00 PM. The service will be officiated by our Department Chaplain and is being organized by the Behind the Badge Foundation.

February 1st is PH's ten-year anniversary with HPD and this day will be a celebration of his life and service to our community. The public and our fellow first responders are encouraged to attend; we believe this would be a strong message to Officer High's family that we appreciate his work and his sacrifice as a law enforcement officer.

Aberdeen PD will be graciously covering our patrol and jail shifts so our department members can attend the memorial.

A Phil High Memorial Account has been established at any branch of the Bank of the Pacific for donations to help cover family memorial and living expenses through this difficult time. There is also a Go-Fund-Me account established on-line for the same purpose.

The family is asking for loving memories and stories about Officer High to be shared at the following email address: philhighmemorial@gmail.com.

I want to personally thank all the members of the community and our public safety peers who have reached out to lend a hand, or just lend an ear. We know Officer High's family is devastated and we ask everyone to be sensitive and respectful to their loss.

As his family-in-blue, we would ask the same.

At this time, I feel the best way to honor PH is to remember the difference he made in so many lives. To recognize his sacrifice. And to remember that no matter what, there is always hope.

JEFF MYERS, Chief of Police

Thank you and we hope to see many of you tomorrow at Law and Justice Day-

Have a good week,

Work Hard- Have Fun- Stay Safe

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