March 11, 2020

Greetings from your Executive Director:

Here are a few updates for you as we all continue to work and coordinate public safety and public health responses from our respective agencies.

First let's start with a few legislative updates - the session is scheduled to end Thursday, and James McMahan, our Policy Director, will be getting you a comprehensive overview once the dust has settled. A few specific items now:

- First, the single point firearms background check bill has passed both chambers and is headed to the Governor for signature. The system will be assigned to WSP.
- The Corrections Officer Certification bill has also passed both chambers.

The budget and the facial recognition bill are still being negotiated. Here is a link to a story in the Wall Street Journal last week in which they mention the issue and WASPC's involvement in this topic, which has a lot of stakeholders, including activists, community groups, big tech firms, and law enforcement, among many others. Stay tuned...

The WASPC Spring Conference is still on for now- we will monitor and as events progress, we will adjust or cancel if needed.

In addition to the materials we have been sending out, there are "clearinghouses" for COVID-19 info from both IACP and NSA; here are the links.


https://www.sheriffs.org/coronavirus

The weekly conference call with Jail Managers has been constructive and will be ongoing- if you have any questions, please contact our Jail Liaison, John McGrath, at jmcgrath@waspc.org

The Seattle Times did this story on the effort to coordinate response from the jails.

The past few weeks, and the next weeks or months, are a good reminder of the critical role played by our first responders and health providers. As you work to balance so many demands for 24/7 coverage and maintaining public safety, please know we are all in this together!

Work Hard- Have Fun- Stay Safe

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