



Washington Association of  
**SHERIFFS &  
POLICE CHIEFS**

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May 1, 2020

Greetings from your Executive Director:

Another busy and challenging week as we all work through the public health and economic crisis. First, I am sending this newsletter on the same day the Governor is scheduled to have a **press conference about the Stay at Home Order and other issues related to adjustments and business**. I did want to share with you a [statement](#) that the State Sheriffs Association sent regarding encouraging a plan that is balanced and recognizes local circumstances. This is a challenging time and we all join in recognizing the balance necessary between public health, the economy, and law enforcement maintaining our good relationships in the community.

I had received a few questions over the past couple of weeks about **whether the Governor can extend the "stay at home" order beyond 30 days**, and whether the legislature needs to approve that. The text below is from an op-ed by State Sen. Mark Schoesler and is also on his web page. You probably know this but he's the GOP minority leader in the Senate. So- he is basically saying the Governor does not need legislative approval for the Stay at Home order but they can weigh in on other aspects of the proclamations he issues.

From Sen. Schoesler:

*Over the past several weeks we have received many questions about the governor's "Stay Home, Stay Healthy" order, and whether legislators can lift it or extend it.*

*The short answer is no.*

*The stay-home order (formally known as Proclamation 20-25, as amended by Proclamation 20-25.1) was issued by the governor under state law (RCW 43.06.220(1)). As a proclamation made under this law's subsection, the order is not subject to a 30-day time limit.*

*The governor's original stay-home order expired on April 8, but he extended it until May 4. The governor might choose to extend the order again. What is important for people to know is that the emergency-powers law under which his order was issued does not give the Legislature the opportunity to determine whether the order should be extended.*

*Under another subsection in the state law dealing with emergency powers (RCW 43.06.220(2)), some other emergency proclamations do expire after 30 days - and the Legislature does have a role in whether to extend those. When the Legislature is not in session (as now), the legislative leaders of the four caucuses - Senate Republicans,*

*Senate Democrats, House Republicans and House Democrats - can grant an extension for some orders issued under this law.*

Next, you likely know that part of the **federal CARES Act** is allocations for relief for local governments. Here is the best information we have been able to ascertain, and is for your information. Confirm any concerns or questions through your finance department at your city or county:

*Funding is only available to counties and cities with a population UNDER 500,000 (the ones over that population received direct federal funding).*

*Washington overall will receive \$2.95 billion. At least 55% of that (\$1.264 billion) goes to the state, and no more than 45% (\$1.329 billion) to local governments. The state can keep as much as it wants. WA local governments with a population of more than 500,000 get \$785 million. This counts against the max \$1.329 billion to local governments, leaving a maximum of \$544 million to WA local governments that aren't King, Pierce, Snohomish and Spokane Counties and the City of Seattle.*

*Jurisdictions receiving direct CARES Act funding must work directly with the US Treasury. All other WA local governments need not take any action at this time to receive funding.*

*The federal program guidance available via this [link](#).*

*The most recent proposed city and county funding allocations are [attached](#).*

Next, here is an order issued this week from **Washington State Supreme Court** Chief Justice Stephens regarding court operations:

*Today, the Supreme Court issued a second revised and extended order concerning court operations during the COVID-19 public health emergency. Courts are directed to continue to prioritize emergency matters. All civil jury matters are suspended until at least July 6, 2020. Courts should begin to hear non-emergency civil matters, so long as such matters can appropriately be conducted by telephone, video or other remote means, or in person with strict observance of social distancing and other public health measures. All criminal jury matters are suspended until at least July 6, 2020. The Supreme Court also entered the extended and revised emergency order regarding civil commitment proceedings under chapter 71.05 RCW and chapter 71.34 RCW. This order continues to recognize the unique concerns in civil commitment proceedings with respect to social distancing, medical records and timely processes.*

*Both Orders are [attached](#) and available on the Courts COVID-19 webpage and on Inside Courts.*

*The Supreme Court plans to issue a revised and extended order concerning dependency and termination matters tomorrow, April 30, 2020.*

*Thank you for all you are doing each and every day to ensure the effective administration of justice in your courts during this challenging time.*

*Very truly yours,*

*Chief Justice Debra L. Stephens  
Washington State Supreme Court*

Next, I have sent an update on the letter(s) we have sent to **Rep. Sutherland** asking for clarification of his comments and whether he was advocating violence against law enforcement. [Here](#) is the letter we sent today, asking again for a written response. I will let you know if we receive anything.

Next, did you know that **WASPC has a job board** available to all members to post employment opportunities? There's never a fee to post a job. In addition to exposure on WASPC's website to all member agencies, the jobs are also posted on Wear the Badge Washington's website giving you double the visibility for your position. To post a position, please use this [link](#). If you have questions, you can always contact Deb Gregory and she'd be happy to help.

Finally this week, Bellingham Chief David Doll sent the message below. **The Chief sent this letter along with a card to the families of each of his department members**, signed by him with this message:

*Dear BPD family members,*

*You watch us walk out the door, every day, to serve our Community. You are Husbands, Wives, Moms, Dads, Partners, Children and beyond. I share with you this important message.*

*Within our police family, I recognize these are uncertain and scary times. These emotions are exacerbated by our profession and the necessity for us to continue going to work to protect the public during this pandemic. It is our steady professionalism and calm demeanor that works to keep our Community together now more than ever. Your loved one has this incredible influence!*

*We are encouraged and blessed to have your support and to see the signs of support throughout our Community in our daily travels. We are continually boosted by the cards and treats that are delivered daily to our station from both our families and the Community - it really means a lot, and we are quite thankful!*

*The support we receive from you is most important, and I so appreciate the support you have shown, as it is a key component in keeping us motivated to live our mission of "Committed to Community."*

*Our BPD family is an extended family, and I thank you for your strength, your understanding and the love you show every single day. This inspires our dedication,*

*commitment and courage to do the difficult work that needs to be done, work that we strive to do safely and with the utmost compassion.*

*Thank you Family, and know that we will all get are getting through this together.*

*David Doll - Police Chief  
Bellingham Police Department*

***A great message and a good reminder of what matters- on behalf of all of us at WASPC we wish the very best to you and your families!***

***Stay Safe-***

***Steve***

**Steven D. Strachan, Executive Director  
Washington Association of Sheriffs & Police Chiefs**