



Washington Association of
**SHERIFFS &
POLICE CHIEFS**

3060 Willamette Drive NE
Lacey, WA 98516
360-486-2380 (Phone)
360-486-2381 (Fax)
www.waspc.org

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Greetings from your Executive Director:

Because there is just not enough going on all at the same time right now, we now also have the proposed [CJTC LETCSA](#) revisions for Independent Investigations which will go to the commission for approval September 8. The proposed language changes are [attached](#) and are part of the ongoing review process.

The most problematic change we have identified is Section 1(b) which would remove an independent investigation team's ability to brief information about the ongoing investigation to the involved agency's Sheriff or Chief. During the meetings about these changes, we strongly opposed removing or reducing these briefings, and raised the point that Sheriffs and Chiefs need to know the basics so they can communicate to their community, and to respond to policy or training issues immediately if those are identified. The concern from the advocates was the blurring of the boundaries, and any perception that inappropriate information would be shared.

WASPC does not support a change to the current language which states teams could give "limited briefings to the chief or sheriff of the involved agency".

For the Sept. 8 hearing of the CJTC (scheduled for 10:00 AM and remote at this point), I know some team commanders and others will comment, and that some agencies and regional IITs have submitted letters about these concerns. I will plan to comment and recommend again, that they not eliminate these briefings. The main points I intend to make are:

- These briefings provide important basic information about the incident so the Sheriff/Chief knows what is going on in the community in which they serve.
- They are summary only and not detailed; the citizen representatives may attend to ensure transparency and limitation on what is shared- that is one key function of the representatives. Transparency is not served by limiting information to the agency executive.
- These briefings can provide important information on necessary policy, training, or supervision issues; waiting until the completion of the entire process before initiating needed changes is bad for public safety.
- Basic information is needed for the Chief and Sheriff to be able to communicate with their community, with their team, and with elected policy makers- Sheriffs and Chiefs are elected or appointed locally and need to be able to be responsive to be accountable.

Example: In my experience, when trusted and credible local leaders, including elected officials, want to talk with the Sheriff or Chief about an incident, they want to know basic summary information so they can also communicate and enhance trust within the community. Only being able to say "I can't and don't know anything at all" does not increase community trust.

As others have done, if you wish to submit written testimony for the Commission to consider, that must be sent 72 hours before the Sept. 8 meeting to be provided to the Commission members, and can be submitted to infoweb@cjtc.wa.gov.

If you wish to testify at the Zoom meeting, the CJTC requires advance registration, as outlined in the message from CJTC below:

We wanted to make you aware we will be holding the September 8 Commission Meeting via Zoom, rather than in-person. As you know, proposed revised language to WAC 139-12-030 will be brought forth to the Commissioners for consideration to approve. An opportunity for public comment will be given at this meeting. To make public comment you must register in advance. Registration for public comment will close the day prior, Tuesday, September 7, by end of business day (5:00 p.m.).

You can register for public comment by visiting our page found [here](#).

Also, following ongoing discussion over the past several months with the Training Committee and the Board, we are [posting](#) our Training Coordinator position, along with two other open positions at WASPC, including Deputy Policy Director. This position will coordinate any online executive development platform and regional in-person opportunities for assisting our members with training in conjunction with the committee and the Board. We appreciate the Board and the Training Committee's support for this resource to provide more support for our members.

Have a good week and stay safe

- Steve