



# Washington Association of **SHERIFFS & POLICE CHIEFS**

## **Law Enforcement Reform Recommendations 2020-2021**

Washington's law enforcement leaders acknowledge the hurt, trauma, and anger caused by a history in which our profession has often failed to live up to our own ethical ideals, particularly in our relationships with communities of color, and we recognize our responsibility to address racial inequality.

We are committed to work with policy makers, community groups, and other stakeholders to improve the public service of law enforcement in our state. Change is necessary and we support meaningful reform and a conversation about law enforcement that focuses on transparency and accountability, reduces barriers to discipline and termination, and ensures a fair and more equitable criminal justice system. We do not present these recommendations as the only credible options for reform, rather as our contribution to the larger conversation.\*

### **Use of Force:**

- Standardize the use of force policies and training centered on the cornerstone principle of the sanctity of human life.
- Require all law enforcement officers to intervene and report to their agency whenever another law enforcement officer uses excessive force.

### **Transparency and Accountability:**

- Expand wellness, resiliency and mental health support for law enforcement and corrections officers.
- Support accreditation (best practice audits) for law enforcement and corrections agencies.
- Support civil service reforms to increase diversity and flexibility to hire and promote deputies and officers.
- Establish interventions for troubling patterns and behaviors among law enforcement officers.
- Explore models for an independent statewide deadly force investigative agency.
- Facilitate the implementation and use of body cameras.
- Provide greater authority for Chiefs and Sheriffs to dismiss officers who betray the public's trust.
- Enable de-certification of officers who use excessive force and other serious breaches of the public's trust.
- Require all Washington law enforcement agencies to submit data on the use of deadly force.

### **Defining the role of law enforcement:**

- Establish state and local programs to build relationships and trust between law enforcement and the community.
- Establish clear expectations for state investment in programs to address mental illness, substance use, and other adverse events that are shown to increase the likelihood of future criminal justice involvement.

*\* These recommendations are abbreviated summaries of the official recommendations adopted by WASPC. The full text of each recommendation, along with recommended legislation to accomplish each, are available at [www.waspc.org/reforms](http://www.waspc.org/reforms)*