



Washington Association of  
**SHERIFFS &  
POLICE CHIEFS**

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June 8, 2020

**WASPC STATEMENT ON GOVERNOR'S ANNOUNCEMENT**

(Lacey, WA) --- The Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) appreciates the leadership of Governor Inslee to work with local law enforcement on additional state-level reforms. WASPC worked closely with community leaders, advocates, and legislators to enact the reforms of I-940 passed by voters in 2018. We are open to the suggestions made by the Governor today.

WASPC has reaffirmed one of our core principles adopted in January 2019:

*WASPC acknowledges that implicit and institutional bias and discrimination exist in all aspects of society: criminal justice, education, housing, health care, finance, and more. We will work in concert with policy makers and others to make systemic improvements to understand, reduce and control the implicit and institutional biases and barriers that inhibit every person's success.*

While we feel we have done a lot to improve the policing profession, we know there is still more work – hard work - to be done to create meaningful, lasting change.

Partial list of reforms supported by our State's Chief and Sheriffs previously:

1. Certification of peace officers (2001) and corrections officers (2020)
  - a. Mandatory background investigations, psychological and polygraph examinations for all individuals being hired as a law enforcement or corrections officer,
  - b. Mandatory completion of the Basic Law Enforcement Academy/Corrections Officers Academy,
  - c. Mandatory completion of 24 hours of in-service training annually,
  - d. Revocation of peace officer or corrections officer certification for failure to complete annual in service training, conviction of a felony offense, convicted of any criminal offense for conduct committed while on duty, or was discharged for dishonesty, controlled substance violation, or other disqualifying misconduct.
2. HB 1064 following I-940 (2018/2019) ▣ Independent criminal investigations into a law enforcement officers' use of deadly force,
  - a. Mandatory De-Escalation training annually for all Washington law enforcement officers,
  - b. Mandatory Mental Health training annually for all Washington law enforcement officers,
  - c. Established a public policy that law enforcement officers have a duty to render first aid
  - d. Repealed the requirement that an officer act "with malice" to be subject to criminal charges for the unlawful use of deadly force and replace it with an objective "good faith" standard,
  - e. Required community involvement in rulemaking relating to training and investigations.
  - f. Required training in implicit bias, the history of race and policing, and alternatives to arrest
3. Mental Health Field Response Program to reduce criminal justice involvement (2018)



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4. Coordination of Implicit Bias Training with Dr. Bryant Marks, Morehouse College (2018-present)
5. Alternatives to Arrest and Jail Program, an expansion of the King County Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion© model (2019)
6. Wear The Badge Washington program to highlight and encourage recruitment of candidates that represent the communities in which they serve (2020)

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*The Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs includes sheriffs, police chiefs, the Washington State Patrol, the Washington Department of Corrections, and representatives of a number of federal agencies. WASPC is the only association of its kind in the nation combining representatives from local, state, tribal, and federal law enforcement into a single body, working toward a common goal. WASPC's function is to provide specific materials and services to all law enforcement agencies in the state, members, and non-members alike.*