



Washington Association of
**SHERIFFS &
POLICE CHIEFS**

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Greetings from your Executive Director:

Here are a few updates this week, and it was great to see many of you at the Spring Conference in Spokane this year. We had our highest number of attendees ever, and got great feedback on our speakers and panels. Our new WASPC President, Redmond Chief Darrell Lowe, starts this week and three board members were re-elected while Kent Chief Rafael Padilla was elected Vice President, meaning he will become WASPC President for 2026-27, with Spokane County Sheriff John Nowels serving in 2025-26.

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Board Vacancy- Interested?

With Chief Padilla moving to VP, that creates a vacancy for his current Chief-at-Large board position (term through May 2025). WASPC president Darrell Lowe has asked us to solicit interest to find those who may be interested in filling this unexpired term on the WASPC Board. This will be a presidential appointment confirmed by the WASPC Executive Board. You must be an active member and a Chief of Police for this position, per the WASPC bylaws (below). If you are interested, please let Chief Lowe know at dlowe@redmond.gov or let me know at steve@waspc.org and I will pass that along to Chief Lowe.

ARTICLE VII Executive Board (B) At-Large Members. *At the expiration of the last of the initial periods involving staggered terms of the original six (6) at-large members of the Association, their successors shall be elected to terms of three (3) years each so that each year one sheriff and **one police chief shall be elected to an at-large position at the annual Spring Meeting.** A vacancy of an at-large position on the Executive Board shall occur when any such at-large member dies, resigns his or her position, resigns from the Association, defaults in dues, is terminated for cause, or otherwise ceases to be an Active Member of this Association. Upon the occurrence of any vacancy of an at large position, the President shall appoint a successor from the **Active membership of the division for which such vacancy exists**, subject to the approval by the Executive Board.*

Legislative Committee Meeting Coming Up

Thank you also for those who joined us at the WASPC conference for our legislative update on the 2024 Session. As we mentioned, we're already looking forward to next year. As a reminder, our first Legislative Committee meeting event is coming up soon (next week). We are looking forward to seeing you all **on June 4th at 9:00 at the WASPC Office for our in-person brainstorming** conversation regarding potential legislative objectives for 2025. If you are planning to attend, please register here: [LINK](#). Additionally, if you have ideas or

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suggestions on what legislative objectives WASPC should consider bringing forth next year, please submit them here: [LINK](#)

More details on both the June meeting and the second Legislative Committee meeting (September 5th in Union Gap) were sent out via GTWO on April 4th. Let James and Taylor know if you have any questions.

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CJTC Update

[Here](#) is the most recent update from CJTC Commissioner Marysville Chief Erik Scairpon on what is happening at the training commission, provided at his request. Also, we had an update at the conference on CJTC certification and de-certification changes, and the bottom line was that if you have questions, comments, or concerns, they invite a phone call. We appreciate their engagement.

Also, a while back I had a question about concern over CJTC teaching recruits to remove their seatbelts for emergency driving. We checked in with Director Alexander, who said WSP does that training for CJTC and she has “chased down” that question and her response is below:

WSP says they do not teach the method of removing seatbelts while driving. In our survey a couple of recruits stated the WSP did instruct them to remove their seatbelts. WSP stated they would address this issue with all of their instructors to be sure they are NOT teaching to remove their seatbelt while driving.

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Is your agency considering WASPC Accreditation?

WASPC was recently awarded a DOJ grant purposed for helping agencies become accredited. As a result, we are offering free ½ day assessments of your agency practices through the lens of several of our current accreditation standards. The assessment concludes with a verbal debrief designed to help you focus on identified agency gaps, between practices and WASPC Accreditation Standards, along with an estimated timeline for successful achievement of WASPC Accreditation.

This FREE assessment requires key staff (Evidence, Records, Training, Investigations, Administration...etc.) availability for contact with the assessor during the site visit. Assessments are designed to either begin at 0800 or 1300 and last three to four hours. We can begin scheduling assessments immediately, so if you are interested, please contact WASPC Director of Professional Services, David Doll, via email (ddoll@waspc.org) or by phone (360-339-3390).

Let us help you achieve WASPC Accreditation, resulting in your agency’s commitment to following the best-practices standards for Law Enforcement in Washington State.

Public Defense Caseloads and Local Costs

On Thursday May 30th, the Senate Law and Justice Committee held and [interim hearing](#) to discuss a couple big topics. From the last session, there was discussion on HB 2001 and judicial resentencing “in the interest of justice” and what that would look like should courts be able to initiate resentencing. Generally, the Office of Public Defense and other similar entities were there in strong support, highlighting this as an incentive for offenders to pursue rehabilitation from Day 1. Other stakeholders were there to underscore the undeniable impacts on victims, and we will continue to advocate for making sure victims are heard and public safety is a priority.

Additionally, the Committee heard presentations on the Washington State Bar Association’s (WSBA) recently approved indigent defense standards, which affect caseloads of public defenders. I have heard from many of you that this may have a huge impact locally financially and in terms of public safety. Upon approval, WSBA sent the revised standards to the Washington Supreme Court, who will review and likely accept the revisions in the near future. The impact will be a drastically reduced caseload limit for public defenders. Everyone present at the committee hearing agreed that current caseloads are causing problems – for public defenders, for the defendants, for prosecutors, etc. However, there is not agreement that simply reducing caseloads is the answer. Prosecutors, judges, and others expressed serious concern that WSBA’s proposal will lead directly to an increase in the number of cases simply dismissed because there isn’t a public defender available to provide timely counsel (which is a constitutional right). The counter proposal is that the State should step in and provide the necessary financial support for public defender and prosecutors offices to do their job, with appropriate resources and staff levels to ensure fair procedure and timely justice. We are watching this issue closely.

Above and Beyond

Finally, during the conference last week, three Pasco PD command staff members, including Chief Ken Roske, were walking in downtown Spokane heading to dinner when they saw a serious [hit and run crash](#). Along with bystanders, they assisted the innocent injured driver and also chased down the suspect, holding him in custody until Spokane PD arrived. On a serious note, it is notable that in this news article the Pasco officers humbly downplay what they did, crediting other nearby residents and saying “we just did what anyone would do.” On a less serious note, we will be asking for reduced conference fees from the convention center in the future since our members are providing additional free public safety services in the areas around the building... well done Chief Roske and your team!

Have a great week and thanks for all you do- stay safe! Steve