



July 25, 2019

Greetings from Your Executive Director:

New Laws

There are a couple of laws going into effect on July 28—we have mentioned both before but here is a reminder of what they might mean and here are some resources if you want to use them.

School Notifications

First, [Senate Bill 5514](#) requires law enforcement to notify nearby schools if there is a lockdown or active shooter. Here is the new language:

Whenever a first responder agency notifies a school of a situation that may necessitate an evacuation or lockdown, the agency must determine if other known schools in the vicinity are similarly threatened. The first responder agency must notify every other known school in the vicinity for which an evacuation or lockdown appears reasonably necessary to the agency's incident commander unless the agency is unable to notify schools due to duties directly tied to responding to the incident occurring. For purposes of this subsection, "school" includes a private school under chapter 28A.195 RCW. A first responder agency and its officers, agents, and employees are not liable for any act, or failure to act, under this subsection unless a first responder agency and its officers, agents, and employees acted with willful disregard.

David Corr, manages the Rapid Responder school safety program for WASPC, provides this explanation of the change:

Now:

In the Easy Alert main screen there is a “megaphone” icon, once selected, responders/dispatch can select the Educational Service District (ESD), County, School District, or Schools that they want to notify. This will send an email and text message to all users at the school and district levels selected. It is time consuming to select the district or schools to notify.

Coming:

Venuetize (our vendor) is going to work on a solution to include, schools (public and private), daycares, and any other facilities needed to be notified. Once this is completed, responders/dispatchers can select from a map or dropdown menu, the schools within a certain radius to be notified. This will streamline the process. We don't have a date on this update, but it is in process.

Firearms at scenes of domestic violence

Another bill going into effect July 28 is [HB 1225](#), a law that requires law enforcement to seize firearms and “dangerous weapons” (undefined) at the scenes of domestic violence. We raised concerns with the “must” language and the fact that these scenes are often situational, but this

language was adopted over our objections. Once we hear the pattern forms are developed we will let you know, but be aware the new law goes into effect in a few days.

Mental Health Field Response Grants

John McGrath, our Jail Liaison, has received the grant applications for this year's Mental Health Field Response funds, and the next steps for evaluation are being scheduled with our panel of Sheriffs and Chiefs. [Here is a great article on Spokane County's program:](#)

Note that there will also be a series of grants for Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion, which are yet to come we are in the process of hiring the Grants Administrator and will get the information out on those applications later in the year.

Crime in Washington 2018

A few weeks ago, we sent out the [2018 Crime in Washington](#) report. Chief Kelly Busey in Gig Harbor prepared a presentation on crime trends in his city for the Council, which resulted in some good [news coverage](#).

Chief Busey also sent along the PowerPoint he used, which is [attached](#).

Why we do what we do

As the public dialogue, nationally and locally, just seems to get more divisive and negative, we were as frustrated as anyone to see this [media coverage](#) from New York this week about officers attacked with buckets of water. Three notable points from this story: 1) the absolutely amazing discretion and strength of the officers to not react; 2) the comment from Mayor Bill DeBlasio (a Presidential candidate) saying, "It's not acceptable for anyone to resist arrest. It's not acceptable for anyone to interfere with the NYPD."; and 3) the reaction from the last person interviewed, who says "this is the way the young generation is expressing ourselves."

Among all the rhetoric and the hostility, do we have an opportunity here to seize on the incident, and others like it, to basically demand commitments from elected policy makers for public safety? Is there a way to find common ground among every political side to say, loud and clear "It's not acceptable to resist arrest, and it's not acceptable to interfere with the police". Uses of force would undoubtedly be reduced, and everyone, including law enforcement, would be safer. Period.

A few weeks ago, a clerk at a Starbucks told some officers in Tempe, Arizona to leave a part of the store because they felt it made some customers uncomfortable. It became viral and led to calls to "Boycott Starbucks". The Chief of Park Forest, Illinois, Chief Chris Mannino, posted this on his personal LinkedIn page:

Taking a cue from my social media news feeds, as a police officer I should be outraged that a Starbucks barista in Arizona asked 6 police officers to leave after a customer reported feeling "unsafe" due to their presence. [hashtag#DumpStarbucks](#) has even been trending on Twitter. But I'm not outraged, exactly because I'm a police officer. As someone with over 2 decades in law enforcement, I've seen this irrational story play out far too often to law enforcement's detriment. Somewhere, some cop does some stupid thing. People are outraged and brand all of law enforcement with whatever negative descriptor fits the incident du jour. We all suffer. Starbucks has a market capitalization of 106 billion dollars and nearly 300,000 employees all over the world. It's irrational to make future purchasing decisions based on one employee's improper handling of a situation. And for law enforcement, it's a bit

hypocritical. There is a great teaching moment that is being squandered by law enforcement right now. Instead of dumping Starbucks, we should be highlighting our understanding that one moment by one employee doesn't represent the whole. Instead, I fear we're painting with the same over-used broad brush that prompted this incident. Let's be better.

Finally this week, here is a [story](#) about what officers do every day in this country and in our state. This one happened to occur on the D.C. Metro when an officer helped a mom and her autistic child.

Have a good week-

Work Hard- Have Fun- Stay Safe

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