



Washington Association of
**SHERIFFS &
POLICE CHIEFS**

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Greetings from your Executive Director:

Like many of us, I was inspired by the response of the **El Paso and Dayton** law enforcement communities this past weekend. The El Paso shooter was taken quickly into custody when the suspect surrendered, and the department and their PIO did a commendable job of keeping everyone informed. The Dayton officers saved countless lives with their response, in less than 30 seconds, to stop the threat. After 34 years in law enforcement, I can still be amazed and humbled by the heroism and service of those who do this job each day...

Last week, there was a [guest column](#) in the Seattle Times that contained a lot of misleading information about **hate crimes and implied that law enforcement is apathetic** or does not report.

On behalf of our members, I responded with a sort of ["let's call BS" letter](#) citing our improvements and training, and higher level of reporting in this state.

Here is an [appellate case](#) that you and your legal advisor may want to be aware of, and track as this possibly heads to the State Supreme Court. The case involves our role as **community caretakers**. Officers found two slumping people in a car at midday, believing (correctly, as it turned out) they were heroin users, and entered to ensure their safety. They took the heroin located inside and charged both, and the appellate court has suppressed the evidence based on the entry not being sufficient. This is somewhat case-specific, and may be overturned later, but it's a good one to know as this is an all-too-common occurrence in our communities.

You may have seen this, but I do want to pass along a study published recently that has received some attention- it's a good one to be aware of:

<https://bsos.umd.edu/featured-content/racial-disparity-fatal-officer>

<https://theconversation.com/our-database-of-police-officers-who-shoot-citizens-reveals-whos-most-likely-to-shoot-119623>

<https://www.pnas.org/content/116/32/15877>

A few newsletters ago, I encouraged all of us to become part of the **voluntary FBI use of force database**. Several departments have joined, I just wanted to remind you that you can still join- here is a [story](#) on CBS News this week that provides a somewhat negative view of the database (implying that law enforcement has hidden, or will hide information) but it highlights the issue well. Also note that the other study cited above also mentions it is needed. As I have said before, I think we should be at the forefront of this reporting, even though its voluntary, rather than having it mandated later.

Serving the Law Enforcement Community and the Citizens of Washington

If you want to sign up for the voluntary FBI reporting database for use of force, just **contact [Joan Smith](#)** from our **Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) section here at WASPC** and she will be happy to walk you through it.

Finally, TVW did a good segment this past week about the Washington Auto theft Prevention Authority (WATPA). The [video](#) is intended to raise awareness of the issue and WATPA's role in reducing auto thefts across our state. Our WATPA Board includes Centralia Chief Carl Nielsen, Grays Harbor County Sheriff Rick Scott, Kitsap County Sheriff Gary Simpson, and Kennewick Chief Ken Hohenberg.

Have a great weekend-

Work Hard- Have Fun- Stay Safe

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