



September 23, 2019

Greetings from Your Executive Director:

Just a few updates for you—

First of all our Board met last week and one of the key issues we discussed was the ongoing work of the Public Trust Committee, chaired by Pierce County Sheriff Pastor and Bellevue Chief Mylett. We are looking at developing a **“Wear the Badge” style public program** to 1) tell the story of what law enforcement is really about and the service provided by our people, and 2) to enhance recruiting by providing support to our members with videos and other social media resources that highlight individual stories of our officers, deputies and troopers.

We will be creating a few pilot videos and hope to share them at the Chelan conference-- we are looking to assist each of you in telling our story and raise the level of understanding and reality of our profession. Related to this issue, here is a [link](#) to a recent Police Executive Research Forum publication on **recruiting**- the campaign we are piloting fits right into their recommendations.

The legislature recently passed a **drug take back law**. I checked in with the Dept. of Health and here is some useful information for you as far as what they are doing and what your responsibilities are -- spoiler alert, you don't have to do anything but it is an expanded option for you and will hopefully reduce your costs:

Washington's new drug take-back (safe medication return) law establishes the first unified, statewide safe medication return program in the country. The program will be run by an approved program operator, funded by drug manufacturers, and the Department of Health (DOH) will monitor the program for compliance. There is no requirement that LEAs participate in the program, but DOH hopes that LEAs will decide to participate as authorized collectors. A few keys points about the program follow.

- *The program covers the cost of installation of collection kiosks as well as the ongoing transportation and disposal costs for collected drugs*
- *DOH expects the statewide program to be up and running by the end of 2020*
- *Kiosks can be located at LEAs, pharmacies and hospitals/clinics with an on-site pharmacy, narcotic treatment centers, and long-term care facilities*
- *Existing county level drug take-back programs will be folded into the statewide program within 12 months of the state program beginning drug collection*
- *If your LEA currently has a kiosk that is not a part of a county program, DOH encourages you to join the statewide program once it is operational. This will pass the cost of kiosk installation, maintenance, and drug disposal on to drug manufacturers.*

You can find more information on DOH's [safe medication return page](#). If you have additional questions, please reach out to the program manager, [Carly Bartz-Overman](#).

Last year, during the legislative session, there was a bill supported by Microsoft that would **regulate facial recognition**, including restrictions on law enforcement use. The bill did not pass, but we expect it to be back again next year, and you have likely seen many examples nationally of states and other jurisdictions banning law enforcement use of FR. Here is a [link](#) to a very interesting article from Pew research-- the bottom line is the public has a higher level of trust in law enforcement to use facial recognition than they do in businesses. Stay tuned on this important issue...

The proposed rates that employers will be paying for **workers comp coverage were announced this week-- and it is a little concerning**. The average workers comp rate reduction will be .8%, however there is actually a proposed increase of 11% for city and county law enforcement, compared to a 4% increase for Fire Fighters. This is a significant potential increase for our local governments. We will keep an eye on this and you should make your cities and counties aware of this. Here is the [link](#) to the announcement which also contains the excel spreadsheets showing the increase by position.

This week we posted a [podcast](#) **about the mental health field response** program in Olympia- we will be looking to do more of these around the state to provide you and your staff some information on how programs are working out there. Many thanks to Olympia PD's Coordinator Anne Larsen and Sgt. Amy King.

Finally, this week we "signed on" in support of an Amicus Brief which will be submitted regarding the recent 9th Circuit ruling on **Martin v. Boise**. This is the case that has caused great concern with the additional burdens on local governments, law enforcement and others regarding enforcement of laws involving homeless persons. The amicus will support appealing the case and moving it to the US Supreme Court.

Have a great week-

Work Hard- Have Fun- Stay Safe

Steve

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