

FOR RELEASE
January 4, 2021

Statement attribution:
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**WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF SHERIFFS AND POLICE CHIEFS
STATEMENT ON 2021 WASHINGTON LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

(Lacey, WA) -- The 2021 session of the Washington State Legislature will bring renewed focus on policing and public safety. The Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) supports measures that bring our communities together and lead to constructive improvement of the public service of law enforcement in our state. We call for an approach that is evidence based, informed, comprehensive, and thoughtful.

We support balanced and meaningful law enforcement reform that focuses on transparency and accountability, reduces barriers to discipline and termination, and ensures a fair and more equitable criminal justice system. WASPC priorities focus on support for those doing the job the right way and are based on the idea that **reform and good police work are not mutually exclusive**.

In June 2020, WASPC outlined priorities in a [letter](#) to Washington legislative leaders and the governor. Specific draft legislation has also been developed and can be found on [WASPC's website](#). We do not present these recommendations as the only credible options for reform, rather as our contribution to the larger conversation. In addition, in early 2019, WASPC approved a set of [Principles for Community Trust](#) which are consistent with these reforms. We have also created a [brief video](#) that explains these reforms.

We are committed to work with policy makers, community groups, and other stakeholders to improve the public service of law enforcement in our state. This helps us to better support the men and women doing this job the right way, every day.

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About WASPC:

WASPC was founded in 1963 and consists of executive and top management personnel from law enforcement agencies statewide. With more than 900 members it includes the 39 elected county sheriffs, and 240 police chiefs, as well as the Washington State Patrol, the Washington Department of Corrections, and representatives of Tribal and 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.