May 4, 2018

Greetings from your WASPC Executive Director:

Here are just a  few quick updates as we head into the weekend:

The appeal has been filed for the I-940/ESHB 3003 lawsuit, which will go directly to the State Supreme Court.  It is likely the Court will schedule arguments in June, but there is no date set.  The Attorney General’s Office represents the legislature in this case, and will argue that it acted constitutionally and appropriately.  We will continue to work to ensure that the agreed-upon language of ESHB 3003, which is much more balanced than I-940, becomes law.

WASPC now has a link to the upcoming grant program for Mental Health Field Response programs.  We will also have a short presentation at the conference later this month:

<http://www.waspc.org/mental-health-field-response-teams-program>

We continue to work on:

* providing more support for getting dangerous folks with untreated mental illness off the streets, and
* sending the message that we need to stop using law enforcement as a political football, and that
* we need to support funding public safety as a core function of government, and
* we work to provide a balanced approach with the Initiative I-940 effort,

It is also time to remember and honor the very important work done by law enforcement, including the excellent work you are doing, as executives who work to improve our policies, our training, our standards, and our departmental cultures.

Somehow this week, in the midst of the drumbeat of news stories about “police violence”, this article was published by the Washington Post:

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/investigations/fatal-police-shootings-of-unarmed-people-have-significantly-declined-experts-say/2018/05/03/d5eab374-4349-11e8-8569-26fda6b404c7_story.html?utm_term=.25ce18febc55>

The ongoing issue of community-police relations and trust is not about “winning” or “losing”- we have seen that data and facts are not really the issue.  However, this information, combined with a recent study ([attached](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Cdgregory.WASPC%5CDesktop%5CStudy%20-%20Police%20Use%20of%20Force%20is%20Rare.pdf) and [another article](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Cdgregory.WASPC%5CDesktop%5CInjuries%20associated%20with%20police%20use%20of%20force%20%28J%20Trauma%20March%202018%29.pdf) attached) from Wake Forest about how rare use of force really is when compared to the number of calls police handle, is certainly a positive direction.  It is indicative of the good work you are doing, and I invite each of us to seize every opportunity to send these positive messages-  again, not about “we are right, and you are wrong”, but “here are some good indications-  let’s work together, continue to improve, and help keep everyone safe, including our law enforcement officers.”

Finally, here is some information from the WA Dept. of Licensing (DOL) related to the ongoing issue of the Governor’s Executive Order limiting data that can be used for civil immigration purposes.  It comes to us courtesy of Brad Benfield of Washington DOL.  Feel free to share as you see appropriate:

*Dear law enforcement partners,*

*DOL is changing the way requests for DOL driver license and ID card photographs and record information needed for criminal investigations are submitted from law enforcement officers to the agency’s License Integrity Unit. Requests will now be made through a secure, web-based portal called Investigative Records Request. Law enforcement officers seeking DOL records will establish DOL-validated accounts and fill out an online form requesting records instead of sending emails to the License Integrity Unit. While you likely have already heard about this project, I received work today we have solidified our plan to launch the new service on May 15 and wanted to make sure you have our most current information to share within your organization.*

* *On May 1, we began communicating further details about this new system to users of our current, email-based request process.*
* *All current security and permissible use approval procedures will remain in place for DOL staff and users of the new system. Procedures designed to prevent the release of information for immigration-related investigations will be strengthened in the new law enforcement portal environment.*
* *All requests made within the system will automatically be retained for two years.*
* *The law enforcement and agency portal for driver/identity information will go live May 15, 2018 at* [*https://wadolinvestigate.nextrequest.com*](https://wadolinvestigate.nextrequest.com)*.*

*The goal of these changes are to provide the department greater accountability processing law enforcement requests, while reducing confusion and difficulty for the requestor. The department will begin using a special law enforcement request portal using a web-based tool called NextRequest. This tool will increase transaction flexibility, and reduce difficulty through a number of innovative features, including:*

* *Enhanced security on the request and response without using secure e-mail (we have heard some law enforcement have issues using secure email)*
* *Multi-factor portal authentication*
* *Portal access using any internet connection*
* *Quick and easy login system that does not require users to re-enter credentials following account setup*
* *Live chat support during account setup process*

*Questions related to the new law enforcement request portal can be sent to:*

* *Photo or applications* *WADOLinvestigate@DOL.WA.GOV*
* *Vehicle related requests* *CCVR@DOL.WA.GOV*

*Thank you, and please feel free to contact me directly if you have questions.*

*Brad Benfield, Assistant Director of Programs and Services*

*Washington State Department of Licensing*

*360-902-3850*

Have a great weekend-

Have fun – Stay safe

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