



Washington Association of
**SHERIFFS &
POLICE CHIEFS**

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Stay at Home Order law enforcement – Enforcement means Engagement and Education

(Olympia) --- The Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) provided an overview of how Sheriffs and Chiefs are prioritizing enforcement of Governor Jay Inslee's Stay at Home Order. The following can be attributed to Steve Strachan, executive director of WASPC:

This situation is unique in our history and the people that serve you understand that and will do our duty with professionalism, compassion and common sense.

Enforcement means engagement and education in support of the order. Law officers have not been asked to detain, arrest, ticket or establish checkpoints for compliance. The Stay at Home order is like other laws in that they work because people agree with the rationale and see it as a legitimate and sensible way to keep people safe. Our communities have shown they understand the severity of the situation and are doing all they can already to keep themselves, their families and neighbors safe and healthy.

We view our role more as one of education. Educating residents on how to keep themselves safe, how to keep their families safe and most importantly, to keep the rest of the community safe, especially our vulnerable populations.

As the Governor's statement makes clear – Essential services will continue and the people who work in those jobs will still be able to get to work and back each day. Everyone will be able to travel for basic needs like groceries and medical services.

When officers and deputies encounter people not complying with an order, we will remind them, as appropriate, of the recommendation and restrictions. Rumors of individuals or businesses needing "passes" or "licenses" to conduct essential services are not true.

The men and women in law enforcement across Washington are your neighbors. They are sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, father and mothers. They will continue to serve you every minute of every day and they will enforce the laws that keep people safe.

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