

**WASHINGTON**



FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE

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## ***Letter from the President***

March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Brothers and Sisters,

With the current “Stay at home, stay healthy” order mandated by Governor Inslee in dealing with the COVID 19 pandemic there is a lot of misinformation regarding law enforcements response to individuals not complying with this order.

Law enforcement isn’t required to enforce this order by issuing citations or arresting individuals for breaking this mandate. Our role is to educate and encourage citizens to stay home. By staying home we lower contact with individuals that may have contracted the virus, which in turn, helps manage the outbreak. Remember by staying home we are potentially saving lives.

In order to educate the public, we remain visible and demonstrate to our community that we care and will continue to look after their safety.

We have also heard of concerns with the heightened potential of exposure for first responders and what employers are doing to ease these concerns for law enforcement personnel. The Washington State FOP is working with cities and counties throughout the state on ways to address potential exposure for our brothers and sisters. Many areas have test sites for first responders who are showing symptoms. Agencies are limiting contacts unless it is a priority. If officers are diagnosed with the virus employers are working with are officers on criteria to keep them quarantined while not having to burn sick or annual leave time. Agencies are starting to understand that as a workforce that is required to still be visible in the public, they need to do their best to look after the safety of their employees.

If you have concerns and are looking for resources, we encourage everyone, member or not to complete the questionnaire that will be attached to this week’s newsletter. This will allow us to advocate for all of you appropriately as communication during this trying time is essential. We also encourage our members or anyone in law enforcement to send us information on some positive things you are doing in the communities during this crisis. This information can be sent to us through our Facebook page or by email.

Rest assured as a law enforcement organization that represents over 350,000 members nationwide we are committed to quality service to our communities and to our members and will continue to work on your behalf and provide updates on changes our best practices while we work together to address this current crisis.

Fraternally,

Marco Monteblanco, President  
Washington State FOP

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