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"Public Safety through Professional Service"

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SHERIFF PRESS RELEASE

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WASHINGTON POLICE REFORM LAWS DUTY TO INTERVENE

A principle that has been an important subject in the discussions about police reform is the duty to intervene. The duty to intervene is usually expressed as a requirement for an officer to intercede if another officer is using excessive force. One of the recent police reform laws passed by the Washington State Legislature (SB 5066) obligates law enforcement agencies to enact duty to intervene policies and specifies how those duties must be carried out. It also mandates that police provide first aid to anyone injured as a result of the use of force, which is already standard practice for Lewis County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) deputies.

The LCSO has implemented such policies and practices long ago. A goal of ours, as with other professional public safety agencies, is continuous improvement, and as the duty to intervene became a topic of national interest, we ensured our deputies received the very latest in training, in partnership with our Prosecutor's Office, surrounding this and all the new police reform legislative mandates.

In moving forward, our commitment will remain to continue providing "best practice" training in all facets of our profession to uphold our agency's motto of providing "Public Safety through Professional Service" to the citizens we serve.