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"Public Safety through Professional Service"

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SHERIFF PRESS RELEASE

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WASHINGTON POLICE REFORM LAWS HOW WILL THEY IMPACT LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICES IN LEWIS COUNTY?

This past session, the Washington State legislature passed multiple bills addressing "police reform" following various tragic police events that have occurred in other cities around the nation. In May, Governor Inslee signed several of these "reform" bills into law. Many of these new laws, when they take effect, will profoundly impact policing across Washington. Some of the laws give clear direction, while others require profound legal interpretation. Although there are still questions to be answered about implementing these new laws, we think it's important to share with our citizens what we know currently about how these laws will influence the way we deliver public safety services moving forward.

The new laws touch on many principles that are already at the core of policing in our state. For the members of the Lewis County Sheriff's Office, our communities and citizens are the lenses through which we view our profession. We make it a point to partner with the people who live, work, and/or raise families in Lewis County to create an overall safe living environment. While we may change the methods we use to deliver our services, our commitment to our communities and citizens, and doing our part to keep them safe, will not waiver.

Many of the new police reform laws become effective in late July. Over the next several weeks, we intend to post updates about the changes coming and the differences you may notice in the services we provide, and how we interact with the public moving forward.

These updates will cover changes related to response to individuals in crisis, response to criminal activity, use of force, deputy certification, duty to intervene, and police tactics.

We encourage you to learn about the recent legislation we've referred to and to contact us if we can answer any questions. The main reform Legislative Bills are: House Bills 1054, 1140, 1223, 1310, and Senate Bills 5051, 5066, 5476.

The Lewis County Sheriff's Office strives to continuously provide "Public Safety through Professional Service". We will adapt to the new changes and look forward to the ongoing positive interactions with our community as we go about providing our best in public safety services.

Lewis County Sheriff's Office Mission Statement:

Being a committed community partner, providing professional service to enhance the safety, security, and quality of life in Lewis County.