

Tracy, Mary

From: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK
Sent: Tuesday, April 30, 2019 10:56 AM
To: Tracy, Mary
Subject: FW: Court Rules - Proposed Changes

From: Peter Montemayor [mailto:Pmontemayor@Rentonwa.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, April 30, 2019 10:47 AM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Subject: Court Rules - Proposed Changes

I have been a Law Enforcement Officer for over 22 years. For the last 18 of those years I have served this city as a Detective. In recent training some of the proposed changes to court rules were brought to my attention and they left me very concerned that our judicial system is actually at the point at which we are even considering some of them. And frankly, some of them are an insult to the Professional Police Officer. These proposed changes, which from my understanding were brought forth by the Washington Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, plays on this media driven, shallow-thinking perception that Police Officers are inherently distrustful. Certainly this last election placed the Policing Profession in the middle of two warring political parties and further has damaged the public's trust of Police. I work with many Officers, from all walks of life. Each had a unique journey as to how they came to be where they are today. Certainly we all have bad days and the media is more than happy to focus on when Officer's actions go awry, and they have every right to. But those Officers, or those instances of violation of the public's trust are a miniscule number when viewed against the entire number of contacts made by police on a daily bases. I have never, ever see what I believe to be any level of dishonesty on the part of my co-workers that was used to assist in the prosecution of innocent persons – or apparent guilty persons for that matter. That, in general, is what the Washington Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers is implying with these proposed changes.

While I find all of them repulsive, I take particular exception to the ones dealing with recordings. Investigations can be dynamic. It is hard enough to get witnesses – even victims – to talk to us. To require any form of recording for those interactions would make crime-solving next to impossible. People don't want to have contact with the police in the best of circumstances. As an investigator, it takes a lot of time, effort and energy to build a trusting relationship with a key witness and it is a skill that is built over time. These proposals effectively make interactions a one-shot effort and if the initial contact is a failure, there is no way to improve circumstances to make them better. The hindrance on crime solving/fighting is severe.

While I have singled out only two of the proposed changes, all are in my view unnecessary and an apparent effort to play off of untrue biases. I beg of you to reject the proposed changes to CrR 3.7, CrR 3.8, CrR 3.9, CrR 4.7 and CrR 4.11. They do not benefit justice in any way.

Respectfully,

Pete Montemayor, Detective
Renton Police Department
Investigations Division
1055 South Grady Way
Renton, WA 98057
(425)430-7528
FAX (425)430-7505

Monday through Thursday 6 A.M. – 4 P.M.

