

Tracy, Mary

From: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK
Sent: Tuesday, April 30, 2019 2:12 PM
To: Tracy, Mary
Subject: FW: Concerns with proposed changes

-----Original Message-----

From: Cody Littleton [mailto:CLittleton@Rentonwa.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, April 30, 2019 2:10 PM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Subject: Concerns with proposed changes

To whom it may concern;

After reading over the proposed changes to police investigations I share some of the concerns others have. First, let me say before working for Renton PD I worked for an agency that issued body cameras. The only way to ensure every department in the state would be compliant with the proposed changes is to require all departments to issue body cameras. However, if the State requires that then I believe the State should foot the bill for them. Dash cameras and body mics don't have a wide range; meaning the further an officer is from his/her vehicle the less likely the body mic is to work. Plus there are constant storage issues with dash cameras and they break down all the time. Body cams are great however, not everyone in police work can use body cams. Specialty units who work plain clothes for example can't be seen with body cams or a lot of their work would be compromised and all for not. Even with Body cams, there are times things happen so fast that an officer can't turn the body cam on until some type of action has already started or taken place. That has to be taken into account.

Requiring witness recording when picking a suspect from a suspect photo montage or any other type of line up can be dangerous. Sometimes, witnesses only work with us if their identity can remain anonymous for their own safety.

Those are some things I wanted to point out for you. Also, if a department has well implaced policy and training, then everything that needs to be documented is being documented. Suggesting there needs to be a court mandated change to what we do and how we investigate crimes suggests that a profession that is based off of integrity, truthfulness, and selfless service is currently anything but. And I think I speak for every officer when I say that is very disrespectful. We have officers in out line of work that make mistakes and are not perfect. But what organization honestly better police's itself than a police department? Good officers don't want a bad officer working with them anymore than the public wants them as on officer.

It is time for people to start taking responsibility for their own actions and owning up to what they have done than to shove blame on someone else in an attempt to be able to break the law and get away with it. It's hard enough to be an officer in WA state with the already implaced stricter rules that what the U.S. constitution is. And that is fine, but at some point it is time to stop letting the defense and criminals point the finger at the police and hold them accountable for their actions. The harder you make this job the less and less police you will have in this State. Eventually that will lead to departments being so understaffed that a state of emergency may to be called in. I know that may be a little drastic but, the more and more small requirements or restrictions you emplace on police the more and more officers you drive out of the State or the profession entirely; and that is a fact.

Respectfully,