

**WASHINGTON**



FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE

PO BOX 1702  
TACOMA, WA 98401

360-790-7445  
INFO@WAFOP.COM

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## *Letter from the President*

April 3rd 2020

Brothers and Sisters,

As law enforcement professionals, we take pride in being the protectors of public safety. Most got into this job to make a difference while understanding the risk we take every time we start our shift as there is a small part of us that realizes this could be the last time we see those that mean the most to us.

During times of crisis we are asked to continue to provide comfort and security to the public. It has been no different with the current crisis facing us with the COVID 19 pandemic. While other non-essential employees are able to stay home and focus on taking care of themselves while still being able to work remotely, first responders are required to still put themselves and their families at risk. These are tough times we are facing.

As a union organization, we should expect our cities and counties to recognize the sacrifice we make. Unfortunately, the Washington State FOP is getting reports of cities and counties informing our first responders that they will be reducing their pay due to the hardship of the COVID 19 pandemic. It is unfortunate and comes at a time when first responders are already at a disadvantage with the lack of proper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to keep themselves and others safe.

Any city or county that is considering reducing the pay of the men and women working as first responders should be ashamed of themselves and are not recognizing those individuals that put themselves at risk in order to allow our public officials the comfort of staying home and looking after the safety of their loved ones.

If any of our law enforcement guilds in Washington State are hearing that their cities or counties are considering a mandatory reduction in pay, the Washington State FOP official position is that they are required to provide a letter to the guild or association for a demand to bargain as is a change in their collective bargaining agreement that has been signed between the 2 entities. Even if cities or counties think that under emergency situations they have that authority, they must bargain the effects of these mandates and we as that they look at the federal support they could get before making these drastic decisions.

Our brothers and sisters in law enforcement and other first responders deserve better treatment during this crisis. Keep working hard brothers and sisters and know that the Washington State FOP is here working for you and is a resource that you can rely on.

Fraternally,

Marco Montebianco, President  
Washington State FOP

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